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CHESTER OF KNOLE PARK



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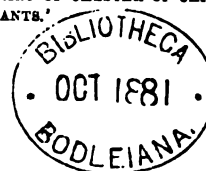
GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS
OF THE
FAMILIES OF CHESTER

OF
BRISTOL, BARTON REGIS, LONDON, AND ALMONDSBURY,

DESCENDED FROM
HENRY CHESTER, SHERIFF OF BRISTOL 1470.

AND ALSO OF THE
FAMILIES OF ASTRY
OF LONDON, KENT, BEDS, HUNTS, OXON, AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE,
DESCENDED FROM SIR RALPH ASTRY, KT., LORD MAYOR OF LONDON 1493.

ATTEMPTED BY
ROBT^T EDMOND CHESTER WATERS, Esq., B.A.
A BARRISTER OF THE INNER TEMPLE, ETC.
AUTHOR OF 'GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS OF THE EXTINCT FAMILY OF CHESTER OF CHICHELEY,
THEIR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS.'



LONDON:
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1881.

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218. d. 134.

TO

THOMAS WILLIAM CHESTER MASTER, ESQ.

Of Knole Park in Almondsbury, and of The Abbey, Cirencester.

MY DEAR SIR,

In collecting materials for the history of the Chesters of Chicheley I accumulated, almost without intention, a mass of notes concerning the other families of Chester; and I have now put together for your acceptance what I have found about your ancestors, the Chesters of Gloucestershire.

It was firmly believed in both our families a hundred and fifty years ago that they sprung from a common ancestor, in the person of Robert Chester, who founded a chantry at Stow-on-the-Wold in 1445; and this tradition had so much weight with your relation and predecessor, Mr. Chester of Knole, who was for nearly thirty years the respected M.P. for Gloucestershire, that when he married in 1736, he went out of his way to have his marriage celebrated at Mercers' Chapel by Mr. Anthony Chester, who was afterwards the ninth Baronet of Chicheley. I am afraid, however, that the story of our common descent is one of those family traditions which will not bear the test of historical criticism; for it is certain that the two families were distinct in the reign of Henry VI., and there is no proof whatever of their common origin.

The genealogy of the Astry family, whose Arms are quartered by the heirs of the Chesters of Knole, has cost more labour and time than I had anticipated; but the descent of your ancestor, Sir Samuel Astry of Henbury, from Sir Ralph Astry, the Lord Mayor of 1493, had still to be proved, and the connexion between the different branches of Sir Ralph's descendants has now for the first time been worked out in detail.

My Memoir would have been less imperfect, if my researches had not been interrupted twelve years ago by my deplorable illness; but an invalid imprisoned to his room must often be contented to indicate fresh sources of information, which he can never hope to explore. You may rely, however, on the accuracy of my Notes, so far as they go; for nothing has been admitted into the text except upon sufficient evidence, and every statement is vouched by reference to my authority. The proofs are collected in an Appendix, and are referred to by numbers in brackets; but I have not thought it necessary to encumber my text by continual references to the printed histories of Bristol and Gloucestershire.

A book of this kind could scarcely be compiled without local assistance; and I gratefully acknowledge my obligations to those who have been good enough to supply me with information.

The early registers of St. John's and St. James's parishes at Bristol were examined for me by Mr. Henry Sidney Wasbrough, who has spared neither time nor trouble in making searches on my behalf in the archives of the Corporation; whilst Mr. F. Grigson transcribed for me from his Collection of Extracts from Bristol registers all the entries in which the name of Chester occurs. Mr. W. D. Sweeting searched the Registry at Peterborough for Wills of the Astry family from 1615 to 1660; and I am indebted to Mr. Stephen Tucker, Somerset Herald, for copies of the pedigrees of Astry recorded in the College of Arms, as well as for some valuable hints on the subject of your Arms and Quarterings. Most of the Astry Wills were transcribed under my direction by Miss Horatia Gatty; and I have to thank her brother, Rouge Dragon, for the Will of Dr. Francis Astry, which is of too recent a date to be copied in the Public Searchroom. Miss Emily Holt was generous enough to impose on herself the task of examining the inquests *post mortem* at the Record Office, at a great sacrifice of personal comfort; and the Index, which adds so materially to the value of a book of reference, was undertaken as a labour of love by Mr. Thomas Mason, the Senior Assistant-Librarian of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

It will be seen, too, from my frequent references to their genealogical collections, how often my friends Colonel J. L. Chester, the accomplished editor of the *Registers of Westminster Abbey*, and Mr. G. E. Cokayne, *Lancaster Herald*, have permitted me to reap the fruits of their labour and research.

I have the honour to be, my dear Sir,
Your very faithful Servant,

EDMOND CHESTER WATERS.

6 Howick Place, Westminster,
December 1880.

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GENEALOGICAL NOTES

OF THE FAMILIES OF

CHESTER OF BRISTOL, BARTON REGIS, AND ALMONDSBURY.

CHAPTER I.

The four distinct Families of Chester and their Arms.

THE Heralds' Visitations record four distinct families of the name of Chester, who bore different arms, and were in no way related to each other.

1. The Chesters of Chicheley in Buckinghamshire sprung from Robert Chester, who had a license from King Henry VI. in 1445 to found a chantry in the Church of St. Edward, at Stow in Cotswold. (1) His son, William Chester of London, had a coat of arms granted to him on 22d May 1467 by William Hawkslow, Clarencieux, viz. *Party per pale Argent and Sable, a chevron engrailed between three rams' heads erased attired Or, all counterchanged, within a bordure engrailed bezanty*; which was allowed to his grandson, Sir William Chester, at the Visitation of London in 1568. Sir William is honourably remembered in history for his courtesy and humanity to the Protestant martyrs who were burned in Smithfield in 1554, when he was one of the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex. He was Lord Mayor of London in 1560, and M.P. for the City in the second Parliament of Queen Elizabeth. His eldest son, William Chester, was Constable of



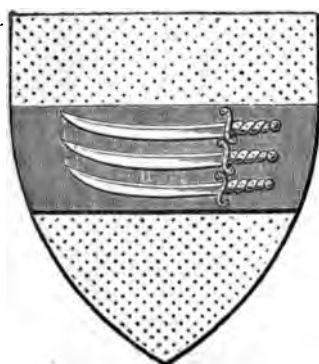
CHESTER OF CHICHELEY.



CHESTER OF BRISTOL.



CHESTER OF HERTFORDSHIRE.



CHESTER OF LEIGH.

Wisbech Castle, and married Judith Cave, the heiress of Chicheley, which was thenceforth the seat of his descendants. Their son and heir, Sir Anthony Chester, was created a baronet by James I. on 23d March 1619-20, soon after the institution of the Order, and the title became extinct in 1769, on the death of the ninth baronet. (1)

2. The Chesters of Bristol, Barton Regis, and Almondsbury in Gloucestershire were all descended from Henry Chester, merchant of Bristol, who died Sheriff of that city in 1470. They all bore the coat of *Gules a lion passant Ermine, between three hawks' lures Argent*; and I have attempted in these memoirs to recover their history.

3. The Chesters of Hertfordshire were descended from Sir Robert Chester Kt., a gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Henry VIII., who purchased the manors of Royston and Cockenhatch in 1540. (2) It has been asserted that these Chesters came out of Derbyshire, where they had lost their estates in the Wars of the Roses; (2) but it is clear from the public records, that no family of note of this name ever existed in Derbyshire; and there are many indications that Sir Robert was a native of Hertfordshire, and that his family had long been tenants and dependents of the great Abbey of St. Alban's. William Chester of Chipping-Barnet, who was nearly related to Sir Robert of Royston, and bore the same arms, was the ancestor of the Chesters of Blaby in Leicestershire. (3) His great-grandson, Leonard Chester of Blaby, emigrated to New England in the reign of Charles I., and founded a family at Wethersfield in Connecticut. (4) All these families bore *Ermine, on a chief sable a griffin passant Argent*. (5)

4. The Chesters of Leigh in Essex were founded by Richard Chester, a native of Hartlepool in the county of Durham, who was Master of the Trinity House in 1615, and made his fortune as a mariner. (6) He died in 1632, and his effigy in brass is still to be seen in the Chancel of Leigh Church. His son,

Robert Chester of Wickford, near Leigh, entered his pedigree at the Visitation of Essex in 1634, and obtained a grant of the following coat of arms in February 1639 from Sir John Borough, Garter: *Or on a fess Gules three cutlasses Argent pommelled Or.* (7) But this family of Chester was of brief duration, for the male line failed in 1649.



EFFIGY OF RICHARD CHESTER, MARINER, ONE OF THE ELDER BRETHREN OF THE TRINITY HOUSE AND MASTER OF THAT SOCIETY IN 1615; DIED 5 APRIL 1632. (From a brass in Leigh Church.)

All these four families have long been extinct in the male line except the Chesters of Hertfordshire, and they only survive in a younger branch; which was lately represented by Sir Robert Chester Kt. of Bush Hall, near Hatfield, the Master of the Ceremonies to her Majesty the Queen.

CHAPTER II.

The Chesters of Bristol and Rodford.

HENRY CHESTER, merchant of Bristol, was one of the bailiffs of that city in 1456, when Queen Margaret of Anjou visited Bristol in royal state, and was entertained by the corporation. (8) The mayor of that year was William Canning, the munificent founder of St. Mary Redcliffe's church, and the hero of the Rowley poems. Chester was Sheriff of Bristol in 1470, and died in the year of his shrievalty.

It is gravely asserted in the Baronetages that Henry was one of the sons of Robert Chester of Stow in Cotswold, the ancestor of the Chesters of Chicheley; but this tradition was unknown to the older Heralds, and is not supported by a particle of evidence. Henry's descendants never pretended any claim to the arms which were granted in 1467 to Robert Chester's son, William Chester of London, and the numerous wills of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries show no trace of any connexion or even acquaintance between the two families. It is certain therefore that if the Chesters of Stow St. Edward and Bristol really sprung from a common ancestor, he must be looked for at a much earlier period than the reign of Henry VI. A still more improbable story is told in Rudder's History of Gloucestershire, where it is alleged that Henry's grandson, William Chester, the father of the purchaser of Almondsbury, was a cadet of the Chesters of Royston, and had been Master of the Horse to the unfortunate Duke of Buckingham, who was beheaded in 1522. But William's parentage and career are ascertained beyond all doubt, and his connexion with Sir Robert Chester of Royston is disproved by the silence of the family Wills and the difference of their Arms.

Henry Chester died on 14th Feb. 1470-1471, and was buried near his pew before the great crucifix in the nave of All Saints' Church, Bristol. His social standing amongst the leading merchants of his time is sufficiently proved by the witnesses who attested his Will.

In Dei nomine, Amen. Tertio die mensis Februarij anno Dni. millimo CCCCLXX^{mo}. Ego HENRICUS CHESTYR DE BRISTOLL MERCATOR, compos mentis et sanæ memoriæ condo testamentum meum in hunc modum.

Imprimis, do et lego animam meam Deo omnipotenti beatæ Mariæ matri suæ et sanctis omnibus; corpusque meum sepeliendum in ecclesia Omnium Sanctorum in Brystoll in medio navis ecclesiæ prope meam sedem coram summa cruce. Item, lego predictæ ecclesiæ pro decimis meis oblitis vjs. viijl. Item, lego matri ecclesiæ Vigorniensi ijs. Item, volo ut unus idoneus capellanus ad celebrandum necnon ad orandum specialiter pro anima mea et animabus

PEDIGREE OF CHESTER OF BRISTOL AND RODFORD.

ARMS.—Gules a lion passant Ermine, between three hawks' lures Argent.

Registers not specified are from St. James's, Bristol; * from Christ Church, Bristol; † from St. Stephen's, Bristol.



1 wife, Henry Chester, Merchant of Bristol; Bailiff of Bristol 1456; Sheriff 1470; died 14 Feb. 1470-1; buried at All Saints, Bristol. Will 1470.

2 wife, Alice; executrix 1471; died widow 16 Dec. 1485. Will 1485.

Joan; mar. with a dau. Margaret in 1485. John Chester, Merchant of Bristol; Bailiff of Bristol 1476; Sheriff 1487; died 1489; bur. at All Saints, Bristol. Will 1488.

Anne, widow & executrix 1489. John Chester, a Monk; Prior of Barlynch 1485; died 22 Sept. 1488.

1 w. Anne, dau. of William Chester, Merchant of Bristol; Sheriff of Bristol 1522; Mayor 1537 and 1552; M.P. 1555 for Bristol; purchased the Rodford estate in Westerleigh, and the Black Friars, Bristol; died 4 Sept. 1558; bur. at St. James, Bristol. Will 1558. (Inq. p.m. 29 Dec. 2 Eliz.)

2 w. Mawde; died widow, Feb. 1564-5; bur. at St. Thomas, Bristol. Will 1564.

1 h. William Pykes, Mayor of Bristol 1548; died 1551; bur. at St. Thomas, Bristol.

William Chester, 2d son; White-tower of Bristol; died 1573. Ancestor of the Chesters of Barton Regis and London.

PEDIGREE II.
(at pp. 24-25.)

Thomas Chester, 3d son; Alderman of Bristol; purchased the manors of Almondsbury. Ancestor of the Chesters of Knole.

PEDIGREE III.
(at pp. 40-41.)

Mary Chester; marr. John Roberts, Mayor of Bristol 1578; purchaser of the manor of Westerleigh, co. Glouc.

Dominick Chester, 4th son; of the Black Friars, Bristol; Sheriff of Bristol 1567; M.P. for Minchew 1572; died July 1575. Administration granted to nephew Edward 8 Sept. 1575.

Mary; bur. at St. Stephen's Bristol, 23 April 1572.

James Chester, son and heir, of Rodford; Merchant of Bristol; died 10 April 1560; bur. at St. James, Bristol. Will 1560. (Inq. p.m. 27 Sept. 3 Eliz.)

Mary, dau. of John Smyth, Mayor of Bristol 1547; extrix. 1560; re-mar. at St. Stephen, Bristol, 8 Sept. 1560, George Higgins of Bristol.

1. John; bapt. 25 Dec. 1557; * died infant.
2. Dominick; bapt. 19 March 1559-60; * died infant.
3. Charles Chester, son and heir 1575; died a minor.
4. Edward, 1582, brother and heir; died a minor.

5. Giles Chester, brother and heir; apprenticed in London, Feb. 1584-5; died unm. May 1588. Will 1588.

6. Arthur Chester, brother and heir; bapt. 24 Aug. 1563; of the Black Friars, Bristol; died unm.; bur. at Almondsbury, 17 June 1603.

Alice, 1588; bapt. 6 March 1561-2. * Mary, 1582; bapt. 14 Nov. 1567. † Anne, 1582. Priscilla, 1575; bapt. 12 Oct. 1571. †

Edward Chester, son and heir, of Rodford; Merchant of Bristol; mar. at St. Nicholas, 25 June 1570; died 12 Feb. 1580-1; bur. 14 Feb. (Inq. p.m. 26 Sept. 2 James I.)

Bridget Slocombe; admix. 25 Feb. 1580-1; re-mar. at St. Stephen, 25 Feb. 1586-7, Thomas Holcombe of Bristol.

Thomas, 1560; bur. 17 May 1564.

Elizabeth; mar. 6 Sept. 1568, Rowland Williams of Bristol.

James Chester, son and heir; born and bapt. 12 Sept. 1573; inherited the Black Friars in 1603 from Arthur Chester, son of Dominick.

Robert; bapt. 21 Feb. 1574-5. †

Mary; bapt. 9 March 1570-1; † mar. 3 May 1591, William Brown of Bristol.

Elizabeth; bapt. 5 Nov. 1576; † mar. 16 Dec. 1593, Thomas Jewell of Bristol. †

Bridget; bapt. 29 Nov. 1577. †

pro quibus teneor, in ecclesia predicta ordinetur secundum voluntatem et dispositionem Aliciæ meæ uxoris.

Residuum vero bonorum meorum non legatorum post debita mea soluta et hujus testamenti completionem do et lego predictæ Aliciæ, ut ipsa inde ordinet et disponat pro solute animæ meæ prout ei videbitur melius faciendum Deo placere, et animæ meæ proficere. Et eandem Aliciam ordino facio et confirmo meam executricem.

In cujus rei testimonium huic præsentî testamento meo sigillum meum apposui,

His testibus Thomas Keynsham* Majore villæ predictæ, Nicola Waryng gentilman, et Thoma Rowley† mercatore, Roberto Bolton,‡ Willielmo Rowley.§

Probatum apud Lamehith secundo die mensis Martii anno Dni. supra dicto [2 March 1470-1] et commissa fuit administratio bonorum Aliciæ relictæ dicti defuncti et executrici, in persona Johannis Jevan procuratoris, etc. [4 Wattys in C.P.C.]

Henry Chester left a widow Alice, and three children, viz.

I. JOHN CHESTER, merchant of Bristol, of whom hereinafter.

II. JOHN CHESTER, was a Religious, and was elected in 1485 Prior of Barlynch in Somersetshire, a house of Austin Canons. He died 22d Sept. 1488. (9)

III. JOAN CHESTER is mentioned with her daughter Margaret in Alice Chester's Will, and was (I presume) Henry's daughter by a former wife.

Henry's widow, Alice Chester, founded a chantry in All Saints' Church, in which mass was to be daily celebrated for ever for the repose of the soul of her late husband, Henry Chester, and for the salvation of herself, the said Alice, and of their children. (8) She survived him above fifteen years, and died on 16th Dec. 1485, when she was buried near him in All Saints' Church.

ALICE CHESTER, WIDOW OF HENRY CHESTER, LATE OF BRISTOL, MERCHANT, DECEASED.

Will (Latin) dated 10th Dec. 1485.

To be buried in All Saints' Church, Bristol, near my late husband. To the mother church of Worcester iij*s.* iv*d.* To John Thomas,|| vicar of All Saints, a bell-cup of silver gilt. To my son, Master John Chester, canon and prior of Barlynch, 100*l.*, and a basin and ewer of silver, parcel-gilt.

Wax torches to be given to each of the following churches in Bristol, viz. the churches of All Saints, St. Werberg, St. Owen, St. Catherine Temple, St. Nicholas Crypt, St. Michael, St. John Baptist, and St. Philip and St. Jacob; and vi*l.* to be expended in masses for my soul and the souls of my husband, Henry Chester, and of my kinsfolk.

To my son, John Chester, merchant, a tenement in Wynch-street, Bristol, which was bought by my late husband from William Nicholas of Bristol, 'halyer.' To John Baynton a cup silver-gilt. To Joan Chester, daughter of my said husband, a furred gown and an annual rent of xii*s.* iv*d.*, and to her daughter Margaret a towel of twilly. To Margaret Rowley a girdle. To Frediswide Delamer a girdle, towels, and napkins. To my sister, Edith Wolff, a girdle. The residue to my said son, John Chester, merchant of Bristol, whom I make my executor.

* *Thomas Keynsham* was Bailiff of Bristol in 1453, Sheriff in 1460, and Mayor in 1470. (8)

† *Thomas Rowley*, Bailiff of Bristol in 1466 and Sheriff in 1475, died 23d Jan. 1478-9. He and his wife Margaret have their effigies in brass in St. John's Church, Bristol. (8)

‡ *Robert Bolton* was Bailiff of Bristol in 1455. (8)

§ *William Rowley* was Bailiff of Bristol in 1474, and was buried in 1479 in the Church of Notre Dame at Dam in Flanders. (8)

|| *John Thomas* was Vicar of All Saints in 1484, when the roof of the choir was ceiled. (8)

Witnesses : John Esterfield,* Richard Sherman,† merchants of Bristol; William Saire, notary public; John Stevyns,‡ and others.

Will proved in C.P.C. by John Chester the son, 6th Feb. 1485-6. [14 Logge.]

II.

JOHN CHESTER, the eldest son of Henry and Alice, was, like his father, a merchant of Bristol, and a resident in All Saints' parish. He was Bailiff of his native city in 1476 and Sheriff in 1487; but he did not live to be Mayor, for he died a young man early in 1489, leaving an infant son, WILLIAM, and was buried with his father and mother in All Saints' Church.

His wife Anne was the executrix of his Will, and the overseers were his mother's friends, John Thomas, the vicar of All Saints, and John Easterfield,* who was then M.P. for Bristol, and had been Mayor in the year when Chester was Sheriff.

In Dei nomine, Amen. Vicesimo secundo die mensis Decembris anno Dni. millesimo cccclxxxviii. [22d Dec. 1488]. Ego JOHES. CHESTER, MERCATOR VILLÆ BRISTOLLIÆ, compos mentis et sanæ memoriæ, condo testamentum meum in hunc modum.

In primis, do et lego animam meam deo omnipotente beatæ Mariæ et omnibus sanctis ejus, corpusque meum sepeliendum in ecclesia parochiali omnium Sanctorum ejusdem villæ juxta sepulturam parentum meorum.

Item, lego Johanni Thomas vicario ejusdem ecclesiæ pro decimis meis oblitis optimam togam de violet atque penulatam cum ffoynys,§ et viginti solidos sterling. Item, lego matri ecclesiæ Vigornis iij. s. iij. d.

Residuum vero omnium bonorum meorum non legatorum, funeralibus expensis deductis, et debitis meis persolutis, do Annæ uxori meæ, ut ea ipsa habeat et gaudeat ad suum proprium usum et proficuum. Et eandem Annam ordino facio et constituo hujus testamenti mei et ultimæ meæ voluntatis meam executricem, et Johannem Esterfeld, mercatorem, Johannem Thomas prædictum, supervisores.

His testibus, Henrico Weston seniore de Bristoll, gentleman, Johanne Snigge,|| Thoma Baker, mercatore, et multis aliis. Datum die et anno suprascriptis.

Probatum apud Lamethith vicesimo sexto die mensis Maij anno Dni millmo. cccclxxxviii* [26th May 1489] per Michaelem Trappes procuratorem Annæ Relictæ et executricis, etc.

John Chester's widow was young and well provided for, and probably soon married again; for she disappears from view after proving her husband's will.

* *John Easterfield* was Sheriff of Bristol in 1482, and was Mayor in 1487, when John Chester, the son of the testatrix, was Sheriff. He was M.P. for Bristol in the first two Parliaments of Henry VII., and was Mayor for the second time in 1494. He died 18th Feb. 1507-8, and was buried with his three wives, Alice, Scholastica, and Maud, in the Church of St. Peter and Paul, Bristol. (8)

† *Richard Sherman* was Sheriff of Bristol in 1485.

‡ *John Stevens* was Bailiff of Bristol in 1470, when Henry Chester was Sheriff. He was Sheriff in 1483, and Mayor in 1490. (8)

§ 'Foyne' was a fur made of polecats' skins, which was formerly much used for lining and trimming gowns. Halliwell quotes from 'Piers Ploughman':

'And yet under that cope
A cote hath he furred
With foyne, or with fchewes
Other fyn bever.'

The *fchewe* was a kind of weasel.

|| *John Snigge* was Sheriff of Bristol in 1486, and was the ancestor of Sir George Snigge Kt., Recorder of Bristol, who died one of the Barons of the Exchequer in 1617.

III.

WILLIAM CHESTER, the only son of John, was a child of tender years when his father died in 1489, and lived to become one of the wealthiest and most considerable merchants of his time. He was Sheriff of Bristol in 1522, and was Mayor in 1537, and again in 1552. (8) The house which his father and grandfather had occupied in the parish of All Saints, in the heart of the city, was insufficient for the requirements of his greater fortune, and he removed into the suburban parish of St. James, where he purchased from Sir Miles Partridge five houses in Broad Mead, on the rising ground on the right bank of the Froome. He converted three of them into a spacious dwelling-house for his own occupation, and his garden abutted on the precincts of the Dominican Convent of the Black Friars. It may be inferred from the Christian name of his youngest son that he and his wife had a special devotion for the Order of St. Dominic; but this did not prevent him from purchasing for his own use the site of the Black Friars when the monastery was suppressed by the Crown. The premises were surrendered into the King's hands in 1537, and were granted to Chester in 1539. (10) He had no scruples in dealing with his purchase; for he degraded the cloister of the monks into an orchard, in which he kept two cows for the use of his household, and he built a bowling-alley in what had been the Abbot's garden. The rest of the premises were set aside as a provision for his son Dominick, whose name seemed to give him a special interest in the property. The site, however, was not wholly lost to piety and religion, for it was charged by Chester's will with an annuity for ever in favour of the Almshouse for six poor people, which he had built behind his house on St. James's back. But this charitable provision did not protect his successors from the ill-luck which proverbially attended the owners of Church lands, and the inheritance was quickly followed by the extinction in the male line of both families, to which it descended. The Black Friars was only one of many purchases of houses and lands in the city and suburbs of Bristol which are enumerated in Chester's Will. He was also possessed of a country house called Hayatt, and of an estate called Rodford, in the parish of Westerleigh, nine miles out of Bristol, which he purchased from Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Acton, at the same time that his son-in-law, Alderman Roberts, bought the manor of Westerleigh. He gave by his Will Hayatt, with the garden and fifteen acres adjoining, to his son Thomas, but the rest of his estate at Rodford was devised to his eldest son James, and remained with his descendants for several generations.

Chester was one of those lukewarm Catholics who had no scruple in making profit out of the lands of the suppressed monasteries, but had no liking for the new Protestant doctrines. He was accordingly denounced in 1539 by one of the fanatical Reformers as '*that double knave William Chester—for sometimes he is with us and sometimes with the knaves; but he shall be a long knave for it, and his wife a foolish drab, for she is the enemy of God's word.*' (11) Religious feeling ran so high in Bristol

at this period, and so few of the leading merchants were free from fanaticism on one side or the other, that Chester's want of zeal gave him great local influence with both parties, which he exerted on occasion to his own credit and the advantage of his fellow-citizens. The changes in religion which followed the accession of Edward VI. created great discontent in the West of England; and it is expressly recorded that the disturbances in Bristol in May 1549 '*were for the most part quenched by the industry of Mr. William Chester, who took great pains likewise to procure pardon for the unruly citizens that were guilty of riot.*' (12) He thenceforth took a prominent part in public affairs; for he was for the second time Mayor of Bristol in 1552, and was M.P. for his native city in the second parliament of Philip and Mary, which met at Westminster on 21st Oct. 1555. (13)

He married two wives. His first wife Anne is variously described as the daughter of John Ware, Mayor of Bristol in 1527, (14) and of Maurice Large, of Wallies Court in Somersetshire. (15) But whatever was her parentage, she was the mother of his five children, and was still living in 1539. (11) Chester was advanced in years when he married his second wife Maud, for her previous husband died late in 1551. She was the well-jointed widow of William Pykes,* sometime Mayor of Bristol, and her eldest son, John Pykes, was Chester's brother-alderman. She had no issue by her second husband, but enjoyed his full confidence and affection.

Chester died 4th Sept. 1558, (16) and was buried in St. James's Church, Bristol. (20) He died rich, both in real and personal estate, and his Will shows the profusion of gold and silver plate in which great merchants of that period displayed their wealth. It was found, at the inquest held after his death on 29th Dec. 1559, that he had died seised of the Rodford estate in Westerley, and that his heir was his son James, who was then thirty years old and upwards. (16)

WILLIAM CHESTER ALS. CHESTRE, ALDERMAN OF THE CYTTIE OF BRYSTOL.

Will dated 2d Sept. 1558.

Sycke in body. Imprimis, I bequeathe my soule unto God and my body unto Chrystyan buryall.

To Maude my wyffe my old gold that she hath of myne, and all her own plate and jewels, and all manner of apparel that she hath, and her household stuff that is in my house: Also, 600 markes in money, to be paid as follows, viz. 200 markes within two months after my departynge, and 100 markes at St. James' tyde next after, and 100 markes at Chrystmas next following, and 100 markes at St. James' tyde next, and 100 markes at Chrystmas next. Also to my said wyffe during her natural lyffe my fyve houses, viz. that I now dwell in, which is worth fyve markes a yere, and two houses uppon Seynt James's backe, which is worth fyve markes a yere and better: Also fyve markes to be payde her yerely by my sonne Domynick Chester out of the lands of Black Fryars in Brystol, and fyve markes more yerely to be paid to her by my sonnes James and Thomas Chester out of my lands at Westerley in Gloucestershire: Also my great orchyarde at the Fryars with the little garden, where the cloyster there was; also the use of the two kyne there during her lyffe, and after her decease the said great orchyarde and the two kyne are to go to my sonne James.

To my sonne James Chester and his heirs male for ever all my houses and lands called

* William Pykes, Sheriff of Bristol 1532, and Mayor 1548, gave by his will in 1550 to the Chamberlain of Bristol £50 for repairing highways, and also £20 'towards fetching home of the water to St. Thomas' Pipe;' also £6 18s. 4d. p.a. to Burton's Almshouses in the parish of St. Thomas. (8)

Rodford in the parish of Westerley, which I bought of Syr Nicolas Poinés, as it apperyth by my evydence of the same; Reserving to my sonne Thomas Chester and his heirs male Hayatte and the grounds about the house within the hedge, and 15 acres adjoining.

To my said sonne James and his heirs male all my houses and lands called the Black Fryars at Brystol, reserving a lease to be made to my son Domynick and his heirs male of the same (except the Bowling Alley and the little orchyarde, which I give to my sonne James) for the term of 89 years at the yearly rent of 10 shillings during my wife's life, but after her death my son Domynick is to pay 20 shillings a year rent, and also to pay six pence every week for ever to the six poor people in the Almshouse which is upon St. James' backe; and for lack of payment the Mayor's Sergeant may distrain on my house to whomsoever it appertaineth, as a quit rent due unto them of the said Almshouse for ever. The six poor people to be put in by hym that doth enjoy the land and pay them. But if my son Domynick dies, and his heir be not of the age of 20 years, then James Chester or the eldest of my sons then living shall enjoy the houses and lands of the Black Fryars, and shall pay and keep all things according to my will, until the son and heir of Domynick be of the age of 20, and in the mean time shall answer and pay to the chylde 6*l.* a year, or else to hym that hath the chylde in keeping, until he be 20 years old. The leases to be made more formally by learned counsayll, according to myne intent and meaning. To my said son James and his heirs male the lodge and two gardens at Mychal Hill, behind the White Fryars, that I bought of my Lord Hussey, with remainder for lack of his heirs male to the eldest of blood and their heirs male, with remainder to the next of kynne or blood, being of that stock or name, for ever, and for lack of heirs male of the stock or name (as God forbydde) to remain to the heir (*sic*).

To my son William Chester and his heirs male my three houses and garden that I dwell in, and two houses upon St. James' backe that I purchased of Sir Myles Partridge Kt.; also three houses and gardens in King Street, and a house before St. Stephen's church door that I bought of my Lord Hussey, with all the drapery, hangyngs, chestes, coffers, tabulles, bedstedes (that were nyne), furnyces and vawtes, with other small things that are necessary to the occupacyon, Reserving unto my said wife the use and occupying of my said three houses wherein I dwell, with the gardens and premises, during her natural life.

To John Roberts and his wife my daughter Mary the lease of the houses and gardens in St. Philip's parish, which John Barber holdeth.

To my said son James three standyng gylte cuppes, with a cover gylte wayenge 18 pounds and 15 ounces and a half, also a dozen of spoons with the Apostles' heads wayenge 21 ounces, also my skarlett gown furred with foynes, and my skarlett cloke furred with grey furre. To his son Edward my Ale crewse, and to his sonne Thomas my best hoope of gold and a chayne of sylver and gylte.

To my son Thomas my best neaste of goblets wayenge a hundred and some ounces, also a little hoope of gold, also a skarlett gown lyned with damaske, and my best Pewke gown. To his son William a spyce dyshe, sylver and gylte, wayenge twelve ounces.

To my son William my three best Ale cuppes with a cover gylte, wayenge 40 ounces, and six spones with lyons or knoppes, and a Salt with a cover parcell gylte, wayenge 17 ounces, also a spyce dyshe of sylver and gylte wayenge 12 ounces, with a gold ryng and one of my best gowns. And to his son William a goblett of gylte wayenge 16 ounces. To my son Domynick a standyng cupp with a cover parcell gylte wayenge 14 ounces, and a Salt with a cover parcell gylte wayenge 11 ounces, and a gold ryng with a blew safir, and one of my best gowns, and three new Ale Pottes wayenge 40 ounces and odd.

To John Roberts and his wife Mary my daughter, my two best gylte Salts with a cover wayenge 51 ounces, and a demison gyrdle of her mother's, and a gold ryng; And to her sonne John Roberts a standyng gylte cupp without a cover wayenge 13 ounces.

To the poor householders and poor people £10 to be distributed by my executors, and towards the repaying of the hyghways to Westerley 40 shillings. To the parish church of St. James a chasuble grene velvett and a cloth of Tyssue: and to the parish priest there fyve shillings and eight pens.

The residue of all my worldly goods to my sons James and Thomas Chester, whom I appoint my executors, and they are to distribute a part of my household stuff between my children, according to their will and pleasure. Mr. William Pepwall, Mayor of the Cyttie of Brystoll, to be overseer of my will, and I give him four markes towards a gowne cloth, and a gold rynge. The said Mr. Pepwall and my wife Maud to sett in order all things without contradicion or varyance.

Witnesses: Mr. William Pepwall, Maior of Brystoll; Hugh Jones, priest and notary publique; Mr. William Chester the younger.

Will proved in C.P.C. by James and Thomas Chester, 8th Nov. 1559, before Dr. Walter Lyddall, LL.D., during the vacancy of the See of Canterbury. [52 Cheyney.]

Mawde Chester, the widow of William, survived him above six years, and died in February 1564, when she was buried with her first husband William Pykes in St. Thomas's Church, Bristol. (21) She became, in her second widowhood, a zealous Protestant, but the last year of her life was saddened by the death of her eldest son John Pykes, who was Mayor of Bristol in 1561, and died shortly before his mother. Considering the affection and liberality displayed to her by her second husband, it is remarkable that his children should be, with one trifling exception, so completely ignored by her will. Her only surviving son, Walter Pykes, was Sheriff of Bristol, with her stepson Dominick Chester in 1567, and was Mayor in 1583. (8)

MAUDE CHESTER, WIDOW. Will dated 6th Feb. 1563-4.

Weak in body. I give and bequethe my bodie to God, which he of his fatherly goodnes gave unto me when he fashioned this my bodie in my mother's wombe.' To be 'ynterred and buried in the church of St. Thomas by the body of Mr. William Pykes, sometime my dear husband in the Lord, with such funerall order and obsequies as becometh my Christian calling; and some learned minister and preacher to be provided to preach there and then God's most holy woorde to the edyfying and instruction of Chryst's members, the holy and Catholic Church.'

To 20 poor men and 20 poor women a frieze gown to each of them. To the poor of Brystowe £20 at my burial, or within a month of it. To Johane Bysse the younger one fetherbed with a flocke bedd, shettis, covering and all to a bedd belonging; also my *Sondaie* salt and six silver spoons, the *working daie* spoons. To the daughter of John Shepherd, chaundler, 40 shillings; and to her father 40 shillings and a frieze gown. To Maistress Rowland* my sadd colloured cassock garded with velvet. To goodwife Pryssly a mourning cassock and 40 shillings. To Elinor Ffrye £6 13s. 4d., a mourning cassock, and a great panne. To Saul's wife of Clifton a mourning cassock. To every mayde of my hous a frock or cassock, 'as they like,' of my fine frieze. To John Long and John Bysse's wife a mourning cassock each. To goodwife Broadwane a frock or cassock and 20 shillings.

To William Chester the hangyng in the parlor and the hall. To Mr. Denys a spyce dish. The rest of my goods to my only son Walter Pykes and my only daughter Cicely Haggett, widow, who are to be my executors.

MEMORANDUM.—The testatrix after making her Will spake these woordes on the lyke; viz. 'I give unto Mary Wigmore £20, of the £100, which should come unto her by the legacie of my late son John Pykes.'

Witnesses: Walter Pykes, Cicely Haggett, Katheryn Pykes, William and Ellen, Servauntes to the above Mrs. Chester.

Will proved in C.P.C. by both executors 3d Nov. 1564. [30 Stevenson.]

* The wife of Thomas Rowland, merchant, who was Sheriff of Bristol in 1569, when Thomas Chester, stepson of the testatrix, was Mayor.

William Chester had issue by his first wife five children, four sons and a daughter, viz.

I. JAMES CHESTER, his son and heir.

II. WILLIAM CHESTER, White-tower, of Bristol, ancestor of the Chesters of Barton Regis and of London.

III. THOMAS CHESTER of Almondsbury, the ancestor of the Chesters of Knole.

IV. MARY CHESTER married in her father's lifetime John Roberts, who was Sheriff of Bristol in 1562 and Mayor in 1578. He was the second son of John Roberts of Ashford in Shropshire, by Margaret, daughter of Richard Johnson, one of the Gentlemen-at-Arms to Arthur Prince of Wales. (17). His eldest brother Thomas was Collector of Customs at Bristol, and his youngest brother Henry was the ancestor of Roberts of Sutton-Cheynell in Leicestershire. (18) He bore *Party per pale Argent and Gules a lion rampant Sable*, (19) and entered his pedigree at the Visitation of Gloucestershire in 1569, when he had five children, viz. I. JOHN, son and heir apparent. II. WALTER. III. THOMAS. IV. ELIZABETH, wife of John Scourvill. V. MARY. (17) He describes himself in the Visitation as 'of Bristow, and of Westerley in co. Gloucester,' for he had purchased from Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Acton the manor of Westerleigh at the same time that his father-in-law bought Rodford. This manor remained with his descendants for several generations, and was the seat of his great-grandson Thomas Roberts, Esq., who died there 26th July 1673, aged 49. (14)

V. DOMINICK CHESTER was born and baptized before the change of religion; and when he was taken as a child to hear mass in the neighbouring church of his patron saint, he little thought that he should live to see the monks dispersed, and to be the owner of their desecrated cloisters. He evidently owed it to his Christian name that his father gave him, to the exclusion of his brothers, a lease of the Black Friars at a nominal rent. It was entailed on him and his heirs male for the term of 89 years, when the Will directed that it should revert to the head of the family. Dominick was a merchant of Bristol, and Sheriff of that city in 1567. He prospered in his business, and was elected M.P. for Minehead in 1572; (13) but the curse of his unlucky inheritance was too strong for him, and his wife Mary died in the same year, leaving eight children who were all of tender age. He survived her three years and three months, and died in July 1575 of the plague, which was then devastating Bristol. Dominick made no Will, and letters of administration were granted on 8th Sept. 1575 to his nephew Edward Chester, who succeeded to the management of the Black Friars estate during the minority of the infant heir under the provisions of their grandfather's Will, which created the entail.

Dominick had issue by his wife Mary, who was buried at St. Stephen's, Bristol, 23d April 1572, (26) ten children, of whom the two eldest died in infancy.

1. JOHN CHESTER was baptized at Christ's Church, Bristol, on 25th Dec. 1557, and was buried there on 11th Feb. following. (23)

2. DOMINICK CHESTER was baptized at Christ's Church (23) on 19th March 1559-60, and died in childhood before his father.

3. CHARLES CHESTER, surviving son and heir, made the voyage to India and China in Martin Frobisher's expedition, and was absent from England when his uncle Thomas Chester of Almondsbury made his Will in 1577.* If he ever returned, he died soon afterwards unmarried.

4. EDWARD CHESTER, brother and heir of Charles, is mentioned with his brothers Arthur and Giles in their uncle Thomas Chester's Will, and died unmarried before 1588.

5. ALICE CHESTER was baptized at Christ's Church on 6th March 1561-2, and with her sisters Mary and Anne had legacies of 100 marks each from their uncle Thomas. She was still unmarried in 1588 when her brother Giles made his Will.

6. ARTHUR CHESTER was baptized at Christ's Church on 24th Aug. 1563, and on the death of his brother Edward succeeded to his father's leasehold interest in the Black Friars. On the death of his brother Giles in 1588 he became the last survivor of his family, but he died unmarried, and was buried at Almondsbury on 17th June 1603. (41)

7. GILES CHESTER was bound apprentice for seven years in Feb. 1584-5 to John Warter of Watling-street, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London; when his uncle William Chester of Bristol was bound for him in 100*l*. (19) Giles died unmarried before the end of his apprenticeship, and was buried in London at St. Mary's Aldermary, on 15th May 1588. (40)

GILES CHESTER (SON OF DOMINICK CHESTER OF BRISTOL, MERCHANT, DECEASED).

Will dated 11th May 1588.

As to the legacy of £40, which was bequeathed to me by my uncle Thomas Chester, Alderman of Bristol, and is still unpaid, I desire that my well-beloved Master John Warter, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, shall have the same for seven years, on condition that he then pay £10 to my sister Alice Chester, and also £10 to my cousin James Chester the elder, now servant with Mr. Alderman Starkye, and also £3 6*s*. 8*d*. to each of his own daughters, viz. Marjory, Jane, and Anne Warter. The said John Warter to be my sole executor.

Will proved in C.P.C. 1st July 1588. [50 Rutland.]

8. MARY CHESTER. 9. ANNE CHESTER.

10. PRISCILLA CHESTER was baptized at St. Stephen's, Bristol, 12th Oct. 1571. (26) She survived her father, but died young before 1577.

IV.

JAMES CHESTER, the son and heir of William Chester, Alderman of Bristol, by his first wife, was found, at the inquest held after his father's death to be thirty years old and upwards, (16) but he must have been considerably older, for his eldest son was born in 1544. (23) He inherited a good estate, for his father devised to him houses and lands in Bristol, besides the Rodford estate in Westerleigh; but he

* See p. 32.

never came into full possession of his inheritance, for his stepmother outlived him. He was a merchant of Bristol, and married in his father's lifetime Mary, daughter of John Smyth,* who died Mayor of Bristol in 1554, and was the ancestor of the Baronets of Long Ashton in Somersetshire.

James survived his father only eighteen months, and was still a young man, when he died on 15th April 1560. He was buried at St. James's Church, Bristol, where a raised tomb against the wall of the old Priory commemorates him and several members of his family. (20) It was found, at the inquest held after his death at Cirencester on 27th Sept. 1560, that he died seised of the Rodford estate, and that his heir was his son Edward, who was then aged 16 and upwards. (23)

JAMES CHESTER OF THE CITTIE OF BRYSTOLL, MERCHANT.

Will dated 8th day of Aprille 1560.

Sike in body, 'ffirst, I wole all my debts, as hit shall appere in the latter order of this Will, that I leav honestlye where with all to be hit complete and payde, desiring God to give me the power to write the truth and nothinge but the truth, for everie man's concience shall judge hym when we shall appere before the Lord almightie who is the judge of all men, and knoweth the secretts of our harts. I doe make Mary my wyef executrix yf hit will please her to take hit uppon her full and holy.'

To my sonnes Edward and Thomas Chester £140 each, for which 'I wole there sholde be sowled of such merchandise as I have at the discretion of my overseers unto thre or fower honest men givinge them ij yerres daye of payment at an honest pryce, and they at the end of theire yerres to bringe theire monney unto the chamber of Bristowe, according to their lande, and yt is the mayor's duty so to doe for the orphants, desiringe my overseers that the monney may be in good silver or golde, and that hit be fast sealed in a bagg with the mayor's seale and theires, and to bye for the behoof of the children tyll they cum to the age of xxij yerres or xxiiij yerres, provided always that yf hit sholde please my brother Thomas Chester to take the foresaide monney at the ende of the ij yerres, hit being payde putting in sufficient lande into his handes and custodie duryng the tyme before rehersed, and yf hit sholde please God to call one of the children, lett the reste of the monney remaine unto the other, and yf it sholde please God to call them bothe, which the Lord preserve, I say withoute yssue lawfully begotten, then I wolde that with parcell of the monney that my overseers sholde purchas five poundes by the yere of good rente whereof to give three shilling and fower pence by the yere towards the lyghte of Saint Leonardes gatte: and vs. yerely to the alms hous in Lewens meade: and vs. by the yere to the alms hous at saint James' backe: and vs. by the yere to the alms hous in saint Thomas' strete; and vs. by the yere to the poore in Tuckers† halle; and vs. yerely to the poore at Sempoll (St. Paul's) gatte, the which I wolde sholde be delivered yerely at allhallowstide against Christmas for ever. And the rest which ys iijl. yerely to be divided amongst the poore of this cittie and the place before rehersed for ever. Also I wold that the rest of the monney that shall be left, the lande being purchassed, to remaine unto my wief during her naturall lyef. And yf hit shold please God to call her then I wolde hit sholde be divided, the one half to my brother's and syster's children, and the other half to her brother's children; also, if so be that my wief wolde have one hundrethe poundes of the monney before rehersed, putting in sufficient lande for the assurance thereof, I wolde she wolde have it.

Also I give unto Edward Chester my sonne all such landes that my father gave unto me,

* John Smyth was Sheriff of Bristol in 1532, and Mayor in 1547 and 1554. He died in his Mayoralty, and was buried in St. Werburgh's Church, Bristol, where his monument still remains. He left seven sons and two daughters.

† The Tuckers Company had an ancient hospital for six poor people under Tuckers Hall in Temple Parish. (8)

and that hit shall go frome one to another of the lynage from heire to heire to the uttermost of the lyne called Chester being of the male kinde, and being brother's children from yssue to yssue according to my father's Will and testament. This the note of the lande I had of hym; Rodforde in Westerley with all such groundes that appertaineth unto hit, which now I have sett forthe to one Symonds for nyne poundes six shilling and viij*d.* the yere, according to a writtinge that Master frye hath made betwixt hym and me. Also I have out of the blacke friers of my brother Dominyck free of all charge *xs.* by the yere during my mother's lyef, and after her tyme Dominyck must pay *xxs.* by yere. Also a parcell of a pece of lande that my father bought of* [*illegible*] which lyeth at Mychall hill, a lodge and ij gardens whereof I have made the loane to my wyef during her lyef.

Also after my tyme I wolde my brother Dominyck to have the bowlinge alle (alley) with the lyttell orcharde and with a lyttell hous to hit yn the saide orcharde, he payinge to my wyef and heires for the rente *xs.* by the yere. And my wyef to have ij trees when the frute ys on them, which she shall lyke best, so long as the great orcharde ys out of her hands. And when the great orcharde doth fall into her handes, then she shall have noe frute of the forsaide ij trees, desiringe you, good brother Dominyck, to be good unto her that there be no spoyle made out of your orcharde in to hers when hit fawleth into her handes.

To Thomas Chester my sonne all such landes as I have purchassed myself, I saye, unto hym and to lys heires and to the issue that shall proceede of hym: And the rest to follow as Edward's before, myndinge that all the landes shall come into the issue of the Chesters according to my father's Will.

Also I will that my heires shall make all such leases and covenants unto my brothers firmeably according to my father's Will and testament. All the landes I saie my wyef to have hit during her naturall lyef, and after her lyef to remain as before rehersed.

'I desire you most hartelye, my brother Thomas, my brother Dominyck, my brothers-in-lawes Edmund Smythe and Robert Smythe, to be my overseers, and that you will within five dayes (my boddie in the yerthe), take a sure Inventerie of such goodes and merchandises that is in my hous or appertaines unto me, I meane not my housholde stuffe, which housholde stuffe I give full and holly unto my wyef, and she to give parte thereof unto the children accordinge to her discreccion.'

Also unto my wyef one hundred ounces of my best plate, and the rest unto my children to be divided in equale portions, my wyef to have the custodie of the hole plate during her naturall lyef. And if she doe marrie, to putt in foerfits to the chamber for their porcion, or the juste value thereof as hit shall be prayed by myne overseers.

Also unto the poore where need ys, vii*l.* xiijs. iij*d.* to be given according to the discretion of my overseers. Also unto my fower overseers, to every of them, a gowne of xijs. the yarde, and to all my brothers and brothers-in-lawe a gowne of xijs. the yarde, and to everie of their wyves a cassocke clothe of *xs.* the yarde. Also unto Robert Clarke my servant five poundes in monney and a blake clothe. To John Roberts my brother-in-lawe a blake colte which goeth in Pucklechurch parke, unto John Wiltshire *xxs.* and a colte, and to Raffe Smyth fortie shilling. To Master Offley my littell gimmel of Gynney gold, desiring God that this my Will may be accomplished quietly without any disorder of any partie.

Witnesses: Thomas Chester, Dominyck Chester, Edmund Smythe, Robert Smythe.

Will proved in C.P.C. on 12th July 1560, by Mary Chester the widow. [39 Mellerche.]

James Chester's widow married again within six months, for she married George Higgins of Bristol at St. Stephen's Church on 8th Sept. 1560. (26) She had issue by James Chester two sons: I. EDWARD CHESTER, son and heir. II. THOMAS CHESTER, died under age, and was buried at St. James's, Bristol, 17th May 1564. (20) I presume also that Elizabeth Chester, who married 6th Sept. 1568 Rowland Williams, (20) was James Chester's daughter.

* The vendor was Lord Hussey. See p. 10.

V.

EDWARD CHESTER, the son and heir of James, was born in or about 1544, and was therefore a boy of 16 when his father died. (23) He inherited his father's estate in Bristol and at Rodford, and carried on his business as a merchant. When his uncle Dominick died in 1575, he succeeded under his grandfather's Will to the administration of the family estate at the Black Friars during the minority of the infant heir. But this inheritance brought its usual ill-luck to its possessor, and Edward died on 12th Feb. 1580-1 at the age of 36, (24) when he was buried on 14th Feb. in his father's vault in St. James's Church. (20) He made no Will, and letters of administration were granted to his widow Bridget on 25th Feb. 1580-1. He had evidently alienated his patrimony at Rodford, for no inquest was held after his death by the Escheator of Gloucestershire until 26th Sept. 1604, when his uncle Dominick Chester's male issue had become extinct, and the Black Friars devolved on Edward Chester's heir, who was found to be his son James Chester, aged 31 years and 14 days on the day of the inquest. (24)

Edward Chester married at St. Nicholas's Church, Bristol, on 25th June 1570, Bridget Slocombe, (26) and had issue five children, who were all baptized at St. Stephen's, Bristol. (26)

I. MARY CHESTER was baptized on 9th March 1570-1, and married at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on 2d May 1591, William Brown of Bristol. (26) Their son Hugh Brown was Sheriff of Bristol in 1642 and Mayor in 1650.

II. JAMES CHESTER, his son and heir.

III. ROBERT CHESTER was baptized on 21st Feb. 1574-5.

IV. ELIZABETH CHESTER was baptized on 5th Nov. 1576, and married at St. Stephen's on 16th Dec. 1593, Thomas Jewell of Bristol. (26)

V. BRIDGET CHESTER was baptized on 29th Nov. 1577.

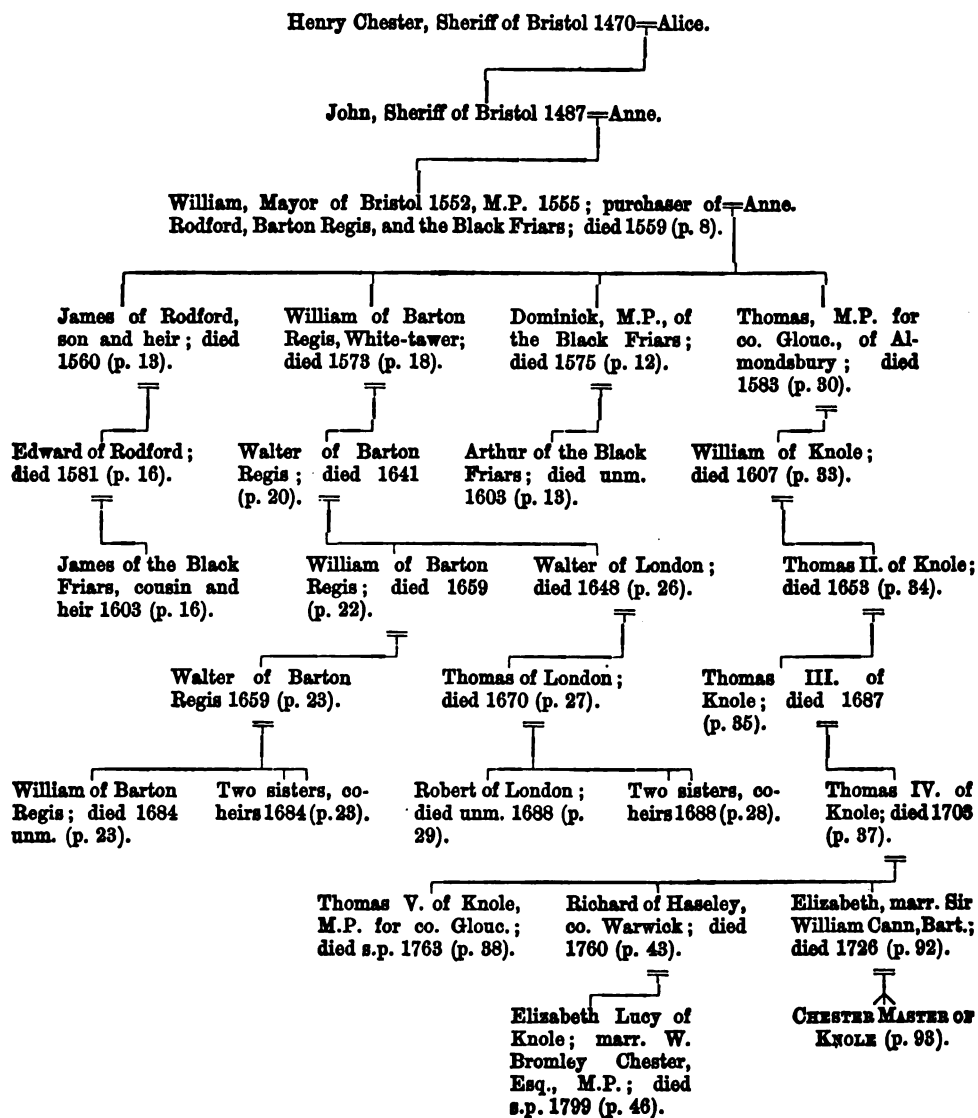
BRIDGET CHESTER, the widow of Edward and mother of his children, married secondly at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on 25th Feb. 1586-7, Thomas Holcombe of Bristol. (26)

VI.

JAMES CHESTER, the son and heir of Edward and Bridget, was born and baptized on 12th Sept. 1573, (26) and was therefore little more than seven years old when his father died. He succeeded in 1603, under the entail created by his great-grandfather's Will, to the estate of the Black Friars in Bristol, when his father's cousin Arthur Chester, the last surviving son of Dominick, died unmarried at Almondsbury. (32) The leasehold term bequeathed to Dominick and his male heirs was still unexpired; and to complete his title to the lease, as well as to the fee-simple for the purpose of sale, James was compelled to establish that he was his father's heir at an inquest held by the King's Escheator, and to take out letters of adminis-

tration *de bonis non* to his granduncle Dominick, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. The inquest was held at Bristol on 26th Sept. 1604, and the letters of administration are dated on 23d Oct. in the same year. By a singular fatality James Chester and his family thenceforth wholly disappear from my view.

SKELETON PEDIGREE OF CHESTER DESCENDED FROM HENRY CHESTER,
SHERIFF OF BRISTOL 1470.





CHAPTER III.

The Chesters of Bristol and Barton Regis.

WILLIAM CHESTER, the third son of William Chester, Alderman of Bristol, by his first wife, was free of the Company of the White-tawers of Bristol, whose trade consisted in preparing 'tawed' leather for the glovers.* This was untanned leather, dressed from sheepskins and lambskins by a process of soaking, scraping, liming, and softening by alum and salt. He married, in his father's lifetime, Joan, daughter of William Horte of Wrington in Somersetshire, by whom he had six sons and two daughters. He died 1st Jan. 1572-3, and was buried at St. James's, Bristol, on 3d Jan. following. (20)

WILLIAM CHESTER OF BRISTOL, 'WHITTARE.' Will dated 5th Dec. 1572.

To my eldest son William Chester and his heirs the lands which I inherited from my father. To my son Harrie Chester and his heirs my houses in Barton Hundred, with remainder to my son Walter Chester, remainder to my son James, remainder to my son Thomas Chester, remainder to my eldest son William Chester, remainder to my dau. Elizabeth Chester, remainder to my dau. Marie Chester, remainder to my brother Thomas Chester. Legacies to my brother Dominick Chester, and my sister Mary Roberts.

The residue to my wife Joan whom I make my executrix.

Will proved in C.P.C. 7th March 1572-3. [10 Petre.]

William Chester had issue by his wife Joan Horte eight children.

I. WILLIAM CHESTER, his son and heir.

II. HENRY CHESTER, brother and heir of William.

III. WALTER CHESTER, brother and heir of Henry.

IV. JOHN CHESTER was baptized with his twin-brother James at St. James's, Bristol, 29th March 1559, (20) and died before his father.

V. JAMES CHESTER, the twin-brother of John, was in 1588 the apprentice of Alderman Starkey in London, when he is called the elder, to distinguish him from the grandson of his uncle James. He died unmarried in 1594 in London, and was buried at St. Dunstan's in the East. Letters of administration were granted on 2d Oct. 1594 to his brother Thomas.

VI. THOMAS CHESTER was apprenticed to his sister's husband, Robert Prince, and afterwards a merchant of Bristol. He died unmarried in 1599, and administration of his estate was granted on 11th July 1599 to his brother Walter.

* The White-tawers are called White-tanners in *Cooke Lorelles Bote*, published by the Percy Society, where mention is made of

'Bokeler-makers, dyers and lether-sellers,
Whyte-tanners, galyors and shethers.'

VII. ELIZABETH CHESTER and her sister Mary had legacies of 10*l.* each in 1577 from their uncle, Thomas Chester of Almondsbury. Elizabeth was in 1591 the wife of Mr. Sadler of Newport.

VIII. MARY CHESTER married at St. John's, Bristol, on 4th Jan. 1573-4, Robert Pryns or Prince, Merchant of Bristol. (31)

William Chester's widow Joan married secondly a merchant of Bristol named Wale or Waall, who was evidently related to her son Henry's wife. It appears from her Will that she survived her second husband, and had a daughter Susan by her second marriage. She died about Easter 1593, and was buried at St. James's, Bristol, near her first husband.

JOAN WALK OF ST. JAMES IN THE SUBURBS OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL, WIDOW. Will dated 14th Nov. 1592.

To be buried in the churchyard of St. James's parish, near the place where my husband William Chester lies buried. To the poor of St. James's parish 40*s.* To my son Walter Chester £40. To my son James Chester £80. To my daughter Suzan Wale £80. To the children of my brother William Horte £3 10*s.* between them in equal share. To each of my sister Elizabeth Allen's two children 5*s.* To my sister-in-law Gillian Horte my best velvet hat, &c. To my daughter-in-law Walter Chester's wife my black cloth gown, &c. To my sister Elizabeth Allen a gown, &c. My son Thomas Chester to have the residue of my goods and to be my executor. My friends John Horte, William Horte, John Horte of Church Hill, Thomas Wale, gent., and my neighbour Thomas Parker to be overseers of my Will.

To my son Walter Chester's son a crock and a panne.

Will proved in C.P.C. 10th May 1593, by Thomas Chester. [43 Neville.]

II.

WILLIAM CHESTER, the son and heir of William the White-tower, is remembered in his grandfather's Will in 1558, and was probably of full age when his father died. He died without issue, and his wife Ellynor was buried at St. James's, Bristol, 23d Feb. 1617-18. (20)

III.

HENRY CHESTER, the second son of William of Bristol by Joan Horte, inherited on the death of his brother William their father's estate at Barton Regis. He was a wine merchant at Bristol, and married Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Waall of that city, but had no issue. He died in 1591.

HENRY CHESTER OF BRISTOL, MERCHANT. Will dated 1st Feb. 1590-1.

To my wife Dorothy all my lands and houses, and also my moiety of a bark called the James of Bristol, also £22 due to me for a tun of claret wine from John Andrews of Cardiff, also £22 due to me from my father-in-law Mr. Thomas Waall, also 40*s.* due to me from my brother Christopher Waall, also all other debts due to me, and all the wines in my cellars and elsewhere.

Legacies to my brothers Walter, James, and Thomas Chester, and to my sister Elizabeth Sadler of Newport, and to the poor of St. James's parish.

The residue to my wife Dorothy, whom I make my executrix. Mr. Anthony Hales and my uncle Mr. John Horte, draper, to be the overseers of my Will.

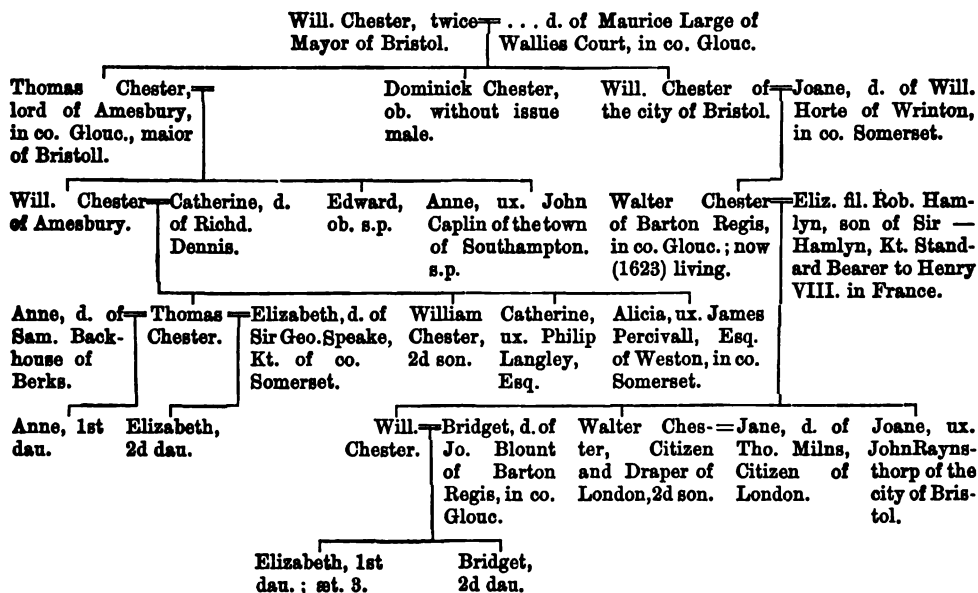
Will proved by the widow 8th May 1591, in C.P.C. [33 St. Barbe.]

IV.

WALTER CHESTER, the third son of William the 'White-tawer' of Bristol, was born in 1553, and succeeded his brother Henry in 1591, under the entail in their father's Will, to the estate at Barton Regis. He was a draper of Bristol, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Hamlyn, the son of Sir . . . Hamlyn Kt., 'standard-bearer to Henry VIII. in France.' (15) Walter was the eldest surviving member of the family in 1623, when he entered the following pedigree of the Chesters at the Visitation of Gloucestershire. (15) His brothers were all then dead without issue, and are therefore omitted from the pedigree, which includes his cousins at Almondsbury.

PEDIGREE OF CHESTER IN THE VISITATION OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1623.

Arms.—Gules a lion passant Ermine, between three hawks' lures Argent; a crescent for difference.



(Signed)

WALTER CHESTER.

Walter Chester died 21st Sept. 1641 at the age of eighty-eight, and was buried with his ancestors at St. James's, Bristol, on 27th Sept. (20)

WALTER CHESTER OF BRISTOL, GENTLEMAN. Will dated 19th Aug. 1641.

'Well stricken in years, and sick and weak in body.' To be buried in the churchyard of St. James, Bristol. To my eldest son William Chester and his heirs my freehold lands in Barton Regis, and also the messuage in which I now dwell, with the messuage adjoining in Broadmeade in the suburbs of Bristol. To my son Walter Chester all my other lands and messuages in Bristol and the suburbs thereof, which I have settled on him and his heirs by deed.

Item. To my said son William one of 'my greater broad silver boles;' and to my son Walter, my other 'broad silver bole.' To my grandson Walter Chester, the son of my son William, one of 'my long guilt boles.' To my grandchildren Bridget and Alexander (*sic*), the

daughters of my said son William, 'one dozen of silver spoons called Apostle spoons,' to be equally divided between them. To my grandchild Anne Raynesthorpe, the daughter of John Raynesthorpe, maryner, £5 in money, to be paid to her when she is 17. To my granddaughter Maria Holbrooke, wife of Thomas Holbrooke, brewer, 'my great silver and guilt Salte;' and if she happen to dye, the said salte is to go to her first child. Item. To my great-grandchild Elizabeth Hicks some little silver spoones and one little wyne cupp of silver.

Provided always that my wife is to enjoy the rents and profits of all my lands and tenements and the use of the several articles hereinbefore mentioned during her life, and after her death the same are to be delivered to the several parties to whom I have given the same by my Will.

Item. To the parish of St. James, Bristol, £5 in money to be paid to the churchwardens for the tyme being for a sermon on New Year's-day for ever. To Mr. John Paul,* Minister of St. James' Church, 40s. for my funerall sermon. To the poor people of the said parish church 40s., to be distributed by my executrix on the day of my funerall. To the Master and Company of the Whitetawers 40s., to accompany my body to church at my funerall. Item. To the widow of Thomas Prince 20s. To Walter Feninge, milliner, 10s.

All the residue of my personal estate and household stuff except as aforesaid to my well-beloved wife Elizabeth, whom I make my sole executrix. My loving friends James Dyer, Esq., and Hugh Brown,† merchant, to be overseers of my Will, and I give them 20s. apiece for a token.

Witnesses: Thomas Blount, Bridget Blount, Thomas Harris, George Hartwell notary public, and John Hartwell.

Will proved by the executrix in C.P.C. 12th Oct. 1641. [127 Evelyn.]

Walter Chester had issue by Elizabeth Hamlyn his wife four children, viz.

I. WILLIAM CHESTER, his son and heir.

II. WALTER CHESTER, Merchant Taylor of London, the ancestor of the Chesters of St. Mary Aldermary, London, who are the subjects of my next chapter.

III. THOMAS CHESTER was baptized at St. James's, Bristol, 19th Nov. 1594, and was buried there on 22d May 1602. (20)

IV. JOAN CHESTER was baptized at St. James's, Bristol, 24th Jan. 1595-6, (20) and married shortly before 1619 John Rainsthorpe, master mariner of Bristol, by whom she had four children. She died before her father, but her husband was still living in 1658, when he was occupying one of William Chester's houses in Broadmead. Their son, WALTER RAINSTHORPE, matriculated at St. John's College, Oxford, 13th Nov. 1635, when he is described as the son of a plebeian and fifteen years of age. (25) He afterwards took holy orders, and had a son JOHN, who matriculated at St. John's, Oxford, as a minister's son on 28th June 1659. (25) JOHN RAINSTHORPE proceeded B.A. 5th May 1663 and M.A. 7th May 1667. He was presented to the Rectory of St. Michael's, Bristol, by the Mayor and Corporation of that city in 1677, and held this preferment until his death. He was also one of the Prebendaries of Bristol Cathedral, and died 1st May 1693.

Elizabeth Chester, the widow of Walter, survived her husband four years, and was buried at St. James's, Bristol, 26th Dec. 1645, at the age of eighty-six. (20)

* John Paul was appointed Minister of St. James, Bristol, in 1637, and was ejected in 1663 for not conforming to the Act of Uniformity.

† Hugh Brown, Sheriff of Bristol in 1642, and Mayor in 1650, was the son of William Brown by Mary Chester, daughter of Edward Chester of Rodford (*see* p. 16).

V.

WILLIAM CHESTER, the son and heir of Walter of Bristol and Barton Regis by Elizabeth Hamlyn, was baptized at St. John's, Bristol, 20th Feb. 1591-2, and succeeded to his father's estate in 1641. He married Bridget, the daughter of John Blount, Esq., of Barton Regis (who was the third son of John Blount, Esq., of Eldersfield, Worcestershire), and had issue a son Walter and three daughters. He died in 1659, and was buried in the Church of St. Philip and Jacob, Bristol.

WILLIAM CHESTER OF BARTON REGIS, CO. GLOUCESTER, GENTLEMAN. Will dated 4th June 1658.

To be buried in the chancel of the parish church of St. Phillip's, Bristol, as near as conveniently may be to the place where my daughter Smith and other my children are buried.

To my dear and loving wife Bridget Chester the use of all my goods and chattels whatsoever for her life, and immediately after her death they are to be equally divided between my six grandchildren, viz. Thomas, James, William, John, Charles, and Mary Smith, the sons and daughter of my son-in-law Thomas Smith.

To my said six grandchildren my messuage in Bristol, in the street called Broadmead, which is now in the occupation of John Rainesthorpe, mariner, for the term of 21 years, to be computed from the death of my said wife: also for the same term the yearly rent of 20 shillings, issuing out of my tenement in Broadmead which is now in the occupation of Symon Tovye, baker: also the yearly rent of 10 shillings, issuing out of three acres of land near the Marsh gate in Barton hundred, now in the occupation of William Weston, butcher.

To my grandchild Elizabeth Hicks £5, besides what I owe her by bond, or otherwise. To my grandchild Elizabeth Harris, my goddaughter, the daughter of my son-in-law Thomas Harris, 20 shillings, as a remembrance. To my two grandsons William and Rowland Chester, the sons of my son Walter Chester, 20 shillings each. To my servant Maria Crook 10 shillings.

To the churchwardens of the parish of St. Phillip and Jacob in Bristol 40 shillings, to be distributed amongst the poor of the said parish Lawfordsgate (*sic*).

My wife Bridget to be my sole executrix. My son Walter Chester of Maton, in Worcestershire, gent., and my loving friend William Gibbin, ironmonger, to be overseers of my Will, and I give to each of them 10 shillings apiece for a remembrance.

To my 'ould servant Elizabeth Greene, my goddaughter, 20 shillings.

Will proved by the widow in C.P.C. 18th June 1659. [397 Pell.]

William Chester had issue by Bridget Blount (who survived him) four children, three of whom died in his lifetime:

I. ELIZABETH CHESTER was three years old at the Visitation of 1623. She married and died in her father's lifetime; and I presume that her husband's name was Hicks, and that she was the mother of Elizabeth Hicks, who is mentioned in the Wills of her great-grandfather and grandfather.

II. BRIDGET CHESTER was the youngest child of her parents in 1623, and married Thomas Smith of Bristol. She died before her father, leaving six children, and was buried in the chancel of St. Philip and Jacob's Church.

III. WALTER CHESTER, son and heir.

IV. ALEXANDER (*sic*) CHESTER was not born in 1623, but is mentioned in her grandfather's Will in 1641. She married Thomas Harris, who was Sheriff of Bristol in 1652, and died in her father's lifetime, like her sisters, leaving two daughters, viz.

1. ELIZABETH; 2. ALEXANDRIA; who were both living in 1683, and are mentioned in their cousin William Chester's Will.

VI.

WALTER CHESTER, the son and heir of William of Barton Regis by Bridget Blount, was born after 1623, and was living at Maton in Worcestershire with two sons, William and Rowland, when his father made his Will in June 1658. He succeeded to his father's estate at Barton Regis in 1659, when he disappears from my view.

He had issue by his wife Mary, who survived him, four children, viz.

I. WILLIAM CHESTER, his son and heir.

II. ROWLAND CHESTER, died unmarried before 1683.

III. BRIDGET CHESTER, IV. ROSINA CHESTER, were both unmarried in January 1683, when their brother William made his Will.

VII.

WILLIAM CHESTER, the son and heir of Walter of Barton Regis by Mary his wife, succeeded to his father's estate, and died unmarried in his mother's lifetime in 1683, when the elder branch of the Chesters of Barton Regis became extinct in the male line.

WILLIAM CHESTER OF BARTON REGIS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GENT. Will dated 8th Jan. 1683, 'according to the computation of the Church of England.'

Sick in body. All my lands and tenements to my mother Mary Chester for her life, and after her decease to my two sisters Bridget and Rosina Chester and their heirs, in equal shares with cross remainders: and in default of their issue to William Smith of Bristol, my aunt Bridget Chester's son, on condition that he and his heirs pay yearly out of my said estate £3 p.a. to my cousin Thomas Smith, £2 p.a. to my cousin James Smith, £3 p.a. to each of my cousins Mary Smith, Charles Smith, Elizabeth Harris, and Alexandria Harris.

To the poor of St. Philip and Jacob £2. To Mattie Johns and her brother John 40 shillings apiece, to be paid within one year's time after my death. To my said mother Mary Chester all my goods and chattels, together with all debts and credits due to me. To Jane Phillips £1. My said mother to be my sole executrix; and Philip Drew, Samuel Fox, and Thomas Elliott to be my overseers and trustees; and I revoke all former Wills.

Witnesses: Jone Longe, James Cooke, James Herbert, Thomas Grimes.

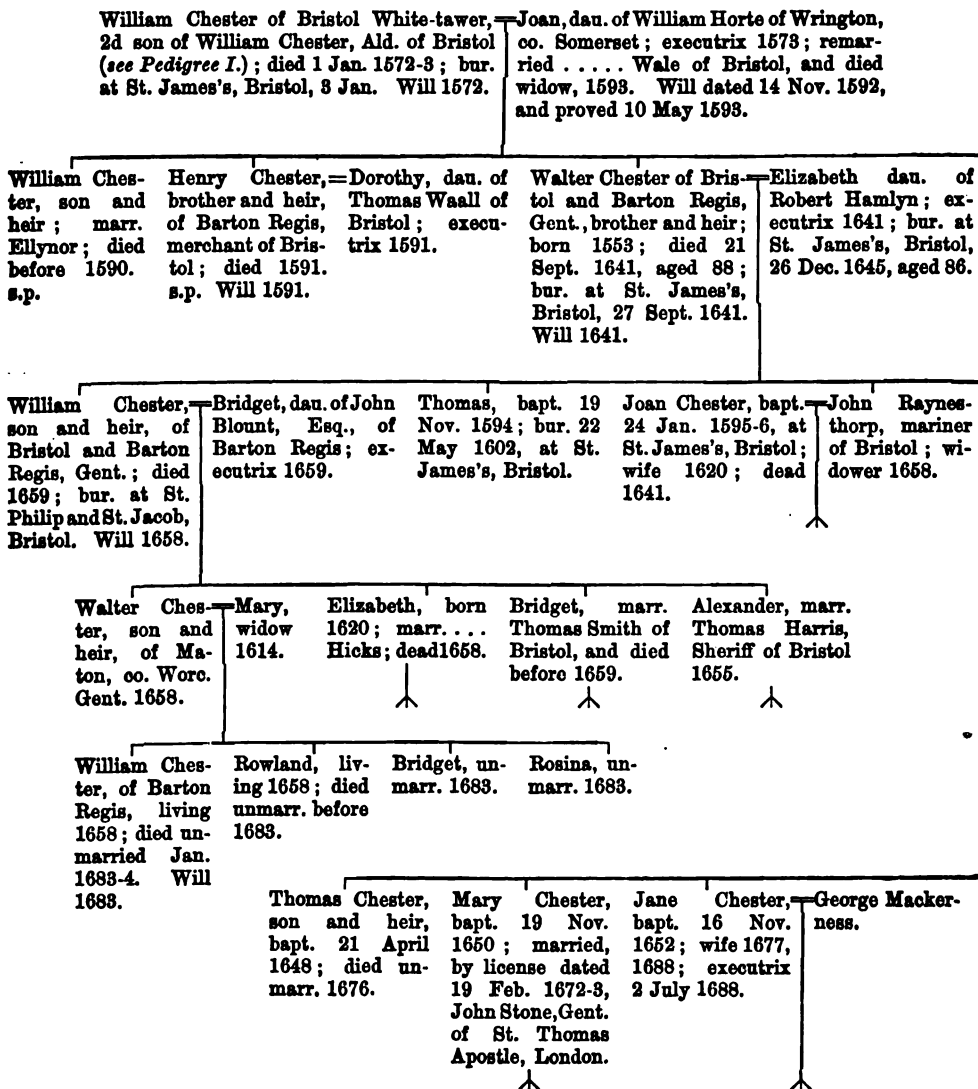
Will proved at Bristol by the mother and executrix, 28th Feb. 1683.

PEDIGREE II.

PEDIGREE OF CHESTER OF BARTON REGIS AND OF LONDON.

Arms.—As of Chester of Bristol, with a crescent for difference.

Registers not specified are from St. Mary Aldermary, London; † from St. Thomas Apostle, London.





<p>A</p> <p>John Chester, twin with James; died young.</p>	<p>James Chester, bapt. at St. James's, Bristol, 29 March 1559; apprentice in London 1588; died unmarr. 1594.</p>	<p>Thomas Chester of Bristol; died unmarr. 1599.</p>	<p>Elizabeth, wife 1591 of Sadler of Newport.</p>	<p>Mary Chester, marr. at St. John's, Bristol, 4 Jan. 1573-4, Robert Prince, Merchant of Bristol.</p>
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<p>B</p> <p>Walter Chester, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London; bapt. 12 July 1593, at St. James's, Bristol; entered his pedigree in the Vis. of London 1634; buried at St. Mary Aldermay, London, 12 Oct. 1648. Will 1648.</p>	<p>Jane, dau. of Robert Mylne, Merchant Taylor of London; died widow; bur. 30 May 1660.</p>
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<p>Walter Chester, bapt. 17 Dec. 1620; † died unmarr.; bur. 22 Nov. 1636.</p>	<p>Thomas Chester, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London; bapt. 28 Dec. 1622; captain of Train Bands; died 1670. Will dated 18 June; proved 8 Sept. 1670.</p>	<p>Mary, dau. and heir of Thomas and Phillis Dorbar, of St. Thomas Apostle, London; bapt. 14 Feb. 1629-30; † marr. 22 April 1647; died widow. Will dated 24 April; proved 2 June 1677.</p>	<p>Mary Chester, bapt. 17 July 1625; bur. 1 Feb. 1630-1. †</p>	<p>Charles Chester, born 30 June; bapt. 10 July 1634.</p>
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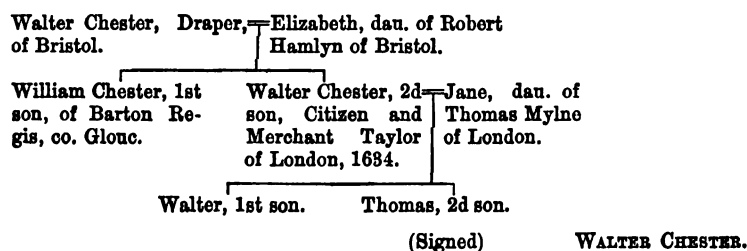
<p>C</p> <p>Phillis, bapt. 27 Jan. 1654-5; admix. 9 July 1677; died unmarr. 1682.</p>	<p>Walter, bapt. 18 Feb. 1658-9; died young.</p>	<p>Charles Chester, brother and heir, bapt. 2 April 1660; admor. 6 Nov. 1682; died unmarr.</p>	<p>Frances, bapt. 18 May 1665; unmarr. 1677; wife 1687 of Leonard Greene.</p>	<p>Robert Chester, brother and heir; died unmar. 1688, Will 1687.</p>
<p>Anne, bapt. 21 Jan. 1656-7; bur. 7 Oct. 1665.</p>	<p>Sarah, bapt. 23 May 1662; bur. 10 Oct. 1663.</p>			

CHAPTER IV.

The Chesters of St. Mary Aldermary, London.

WALTER CHESTER, the second son of Walter Chester of Barton Regis by Elizabeth Hamlyn, was apprenticed for eight years in September 1611 to Robert Mylne, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London. (19) When the term of his servitude expired he was admitted to the freedom of London by the Merchant Taylors' Company, and married his master's daughter Jane. He resided after his marriage in the parish of St. Mary Aldermary, where all his children, except the eldest, were baptized. (34) He entered his pedigree at the Visitation of London in 1634, when the arms of the Chesters of Bristol were allowed to him. (27)

PEDIGREE OF CHESTER FROM VISITATION OF LONDON, 1634.



Parson of St. Mary Aldermary, £5. To the poor of that parish £10, and to the poor of St. James, Bristol, £10. To my kinswoman Mary Holbrooke £10. To my brother Dorbar and his wife 40s. each for a ring. Legacies to my cousin Mr. Hugh Brown* of Bristol and to my dau.-in-law Mary Chester. To my grandson Thomas Chester my great gilt bowl. My lands at Redcross near Bristol were settled on my son's marriage on him and his wife in reversion after the death of myself and my wife. To my son Charles Chester the Inn called the Lamb at Lafford's Gate near Bristol and two messuages in the parish of Waltham, Essex, which I bought from my cousin Anne Prince widow. The residue to be divided between my two sons, whom I make my executors. My friend Andrew Beech, draper, and my cousin Mr. Abraham Haynes, to be overseers of my Will.

Will proved by Thos. Chester 16th Oct. 1648, in C.P.C. [141 Essex.]

Walter Chester had issue by his wife Jane Mylne four children, two of whom died young, in his lifetime.

I. WALTER CHESTER was baptized at St. Thomas Apostle, London, 17th Dec. 1620. (34) He died in his father's lifetime at the age of sixteen, and was buried at St. Mary Aldermary on 22d Nov. 1636. (34)

II. THOMAS CHESTER, eldest surviving son.

III. MARY CHESTER was baptized at St. Mary Aldermary 17th July 1625. (34) She died at the age of five, and was buried at St. Thomas Apostle 1st Feb. 1630-1. (34)

IV. CHARLES CHESTER was born on 30th June, and was baptized at St. Mary Aldermary on 10th July 1634. (34) He was admitted a scholar at Merchant Taylors' School in 1645, (29) and survived his father; but I have found no further notice of him.

JANE CHESTER, the widow of Walter, survived her husband nearly twelve years, and was buried at St. Mary Aldermary 30th May 1660. (34) She died intestate, and letters of administration were granted to her son Thomas on 27th July 1660.

II.

THOMAS CHESTER, eldest surviving son of Walter, was baptized at St. Mary Aldermary 28th Dec. 1622, (34) and was free of the Merchant Taylors of London by patrimony. He was by trade a draper, and was a captain in the City Trainbands. He married by license,† at St. Mary Aldermary, (34) on 22d April 1647, Mary, the only daughter of Thomas and Phillis Dorbar, of the parish of St. Thomas Apostle, when his father's estate at Redcross, near Bristol, was settled on him and his wife in reversion. He died in 1670, leaving seven children, who were all under age, and was buried at St. Botolph's without Aldgate.

* See note † at p. 23.

† *Marriage License, from the Registry of the Bishop of London*: (25) 1647, April 15. Thomas Chester of St. Mary Aldermary, London, Draper, a bachelor, aged about 24, to marry Mary Dorbar, of St. Thomas Apostle, London, spinster, aged about 17, with the consent of her father Thomas Dorbar, Carpenter. To marry at St. Mary Aldermary, or at Lambeth in Surrey.

THOMAS CHESTER OF ST. BOTOLPH WITHOUT ALDGATE, LONDON, CITIZEN AND MERCHANT TAYLOR. Will dated 18th June 1670.

Weak and sick in body. My personal estate to be divided into three parts, of which two parts are to go to my wife Mary, whom I make my sole executrix, and the other part to be divided between my children, who are all under age.

Will proved 8th Sept. 1670 by the widow in C.P.C. [116 Perr.]

Captain Thomas Chester had issue by his wife, Mary Dorbarr, ten children, all of whom, except the youngest, were baptized at St. Mary Aldermary. (34)

I. THOMAS CHESTER, son and heir.

II. MARY CHESTER was baptized on 19th Nov. 1650, and married by license,* dated 19th Feb. 1672-3, John Stone, gentleman, of the parish of St. Thomas Apostle. They were both living with a daughter Mary in 1677.

III. JANE CHESTER was baptized on 16th Nov. 1652, and married before 1677 George Mackerness. They were both living in 1687 with two children, MARY and JOHN, and proved the Will of Robert Chester on 2d July 1688.

IV. PHILLIS CHESTER was born on 27th Jan. 1654-5, and was baptized the same day. She survived her mother, and had a grant of administration *de bonis non* to her brother Thomas 9th July 1677. She died unmarried in 1682.

V. ANNE CHESTER was born on 21st Jan. 1656-7, and was baptized the same day. She died in childhood before her father, and was buried 7th Oct. 1665 at St. Mary Aldermary. (34)

VI. WALTER CHESTER was born on 6th Feb. 1658-9, and was baptized on 18th Feb. following. (34) He died in childhood in his mother's lifetime.

VII. CHARLES CHESTER was the eldest surviving son of his mother in 1667.

VIII. SARAH CHESTER was born on 7th May 1662, and was baptized on 23d May following. (34) She died an infant, and was buried 10th Oct. 1663. (34)

IX. FRANCES CHESTER was born on 7th May 1665, and was baptized on 18th May following. (34) She was unmarried in 1677, but in 1687 was the wife of Leonard Greene.

X. ROBERT CHESTER, the only surviving son in 1687.

Mary Chester, the widow of Thomas, removed after her husband's death into the parish of St. Mary Whitechapel, where she died in May 1677. Out of her ten children only two sons and three daughters survived her.

MARY CHESTER, OF ST. MARY'S, WHITECHAPEL, WIDOW. Will dated 24th April 1677.

To my daughters Phillis and Frances Chester the rents and profits of my houses and tenements in Bell Alley, in the parish of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, London, upon trust for my mother Phillis Dorbarr during her life, and after her death to themselves absolutely.

* *Marriage License from the Vicar-General's Registry* : (25)

1672-3, Feb. 19. John Stone of the parish of St. Thomas Apostle, London, Gent., bachelor, about 23 years old, to marry Mrs. Mary Chester of St. Mary's, Whitechapel, spr., aged about 20, with the consent of her mother Mary Chester, of Whitechapel, Widow. To marry at Stepney, or St. Botolph's, Aldgate, or at Bow.

To my said daughters Phillis and Frances Chester my premises in the Tower Royal, in the parish of St. Thomas Apostle. To my son Robert Chester certain other premises in St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, out of the rents of which £5 p.a. is to be paid to my daughter Mary Stone for her separate use, until my son Robert comes of age.

To my son Charles Chester my silver cup, gold ring, &c. To my daughter Phillis my silver plate marked T. C. and engraved with my late husband's coat of arms. If my executors recover any money remaining in the hands of the East India Company, I give £100 of it to my said son Robert Chester, £10 to my daughter Jane Mackerness, 40 shillings to her daughter Mary, 40 shillings to my granddaughter Mary Stone, and 40 shillings to Margaret Gibson.

The residue of my estate to be equally divided between my said children Phillis, Charles, Frances, and Robert Chester. My friends Mr. Philip Evans and Mr. John Lendop to be my executors.

Will proved 2d June 1677, in the Commissary Court of London.

III.

THOMAS CHESTER, the son and heir of Captain Thomas Chester, Merchant Taylor of London, by Phillis Dorbarr, was baptized at St. Mary Aldermary on 21st April 1648, (34) and died unmarried in 1676, in the lifetime of his mother, who administered to his estate on 11th Oct. 1676.

IV.

CHARLES CHESTER, brother and heir of Thomas, was born on 2d April 1660, and was baptized the same day at St. Mary Aldermary. (34) He survived his sister Phillis, and took out letters of administration *de bonis non* to their brother Thomas on 6th Nov. 1682. But it would seem that he died unmarried before 1687.

V.

ROBERT CHESTER, the youngest child and last surviving son of Captain Thomas Chester, was still under age when his mother died in May 1677. He died unmarried in June 1688, when the male descendants of Walter Chester of London became extinct.

ROBERT CHESTER, LATE OF ST. MARTIN'S OUTWICH, LONDON, but at his death and for three months before of St. Mary's, Whitechapel. Noncupative Will dated 17th April 1687.

To my sister Frances, wife of Leonard Greene, 20 shillings. To my cousins Mary and John Mackerness, children of my sister Jane, each a ring. The residue to my brother and sister George and Jane Mackerness, whom I make my executors.

Will proved 2d July 1688, in the Commissary Court of London.

CHAPTER V.

The Chesters of Almondsbury and Knole.

THOMAS CHESTER, the third son of Alderman William Chester by his first wife, was about 30 years old when his father died in 1558. He was, like his father and brothers, a leading merchant of Bristol, but from his greater energy and abilities was by far the most prosperous and conspicuous of his family. He was Sheriff of Bristol in 1559, the year after his father's death, and was elected M.P. for his native city in 1567. (13) He was then already a great landowner, for he had purchased in the preceding year the manor and hundred of Barton Regis outside the gates of Bristol. This estate comprised extensive woods, forming part of Kingswood Chase, and abounded with coal-mines and clay-pits. It had always belonged to personages of the first distinction, and was sold by the Crown to the Earl of Pembroke in 1553 for 7000*l.* (14) It passed from the Earl to Sir Maurice Dennys, Kt., of Pucklechurch, who died seised of this manor and hundred about Christmas 1562. He directed by his Will (which is dated 20th Oct. 1562, and was proved on 9th Feb. 1562-3) that the manor and hundred of Barton Regis, together with his manor of Olveston, in the same county, and his estates in Kent, should be sold by his wife and executrix, Dame Elizabeth Dennys, and that the proceeds should be applied in payment of his debts and legacies, and especially of a debt of 2200*l.*, for which his manor of Siston in Gloucestershire had been mortgaged on 1st Feb. 1559-60 to Rowland Haward, Alderman of London, and Francis Bower, Citizen and Grocer. Sir Maurice Dennys left no issue, and, subject to the life estate of his widow, he made his nephew Richard Dennys, the eldest son of his brother Sir Walter, his principal heir; for the manors of Siston and Pucklechurch were devised to him in tail male after the death of Dame Elizabeth. She died soon after her husband without having executed the trust for the sale of his Gloucestershire estates, and the manor and hundred of Barton were conveyed by Richard Dennys of Pucklechurch to Thomas Chester in the eighth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. It seems that a match between the two families formed part of the bargain; for William Chester, the heir of the purchaser, was contracted by his father, to marry Katherine Dennys, the infant daughter of the vendor, and the manor of Barton has ever since formed part of the inheritance of their descendants. Chester was Mayor of Bristol in 1569, and in the same year purchased from the corporation the site of the suppressed house of the White Friars in the parish of St. Augustine the Less, which is now occupied by Colston's School and Hospital. (8) About the same time he acquired another estate in Gloucestershire of still greater value,

for he purchased from Sir Henry D'Arcy, in the 11th year of Queen Elizabeth, the manor of Almondsbury with lands adjoining in Alveston. This manor had belonged to the great Abbey of St. Augustine's at Bristol from the time of its foundation by Robert Fitz-Harding in 1148, and was granted by Henry VIII. in 1545 to the notorious Sir Miles Partridge, on whose execution in 1552 it reverted to the Crown. It was purchased in 1553 by Sir Arthur D'Arcy, whose son Henry had livery of this inheritance in 1559, and sold it ten years afterwards to Thomas Chester. (30) He or his heir built a mansion here called Knole Park, which has been ever since the principal residence of his descendants. The acquisition of these estates gave him great influence in the county of Gloucester; and when Sir Giles Bruges succeeded to the Barony of Chandos in 1573, Chester was elected one of the Knights of the shire in his place. (13)

Chester was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1577, but he did not allow his rank as a great landowner to interfere with his business as a merchant of Bristol. He was in 1577 one of the four merchants of Bristol who contributed 25*l.* each to the second voyage of Martin Frobisher to the East Indies, China, and Cathay in search of the North-West passage. (32) Frobisher returned from his second voyage in Sept. 1577, when his ship, the *Ayde*, discharged its cargo in the King's Roads at Bristol. She brought 130 tons of ore, which was so hard that it struck fire like a flint, and was judged from its weight to be very rich and full of gold. But when the assay was made in Bristol Castle and at the London Mint, it was found not to be worth the cost of refining. The adventurers therefore lost their money; and it is significant that Chester's name is not to be found amongst the contributors to Frobisher's third expedition in the next year, which was as unremunerative as the last had been. I turn aside to mention an incident which was witnessed by Chester and his friends at Bristol. The crew of the *Ayde* brought home with them a family of Greenlanders or Esquimaux. The man called himself *Callich* or *Cally Chough*, and his wife *Ignorth*, and they had a young child. They are described in the annals of Bristol as 'savage people, clothed in stags' skins, wearing neither linen nor woollen, and feeding on raw flesh without bread or vegetables. The woman suckled her child behind her back, casting her breasts over her shoulders.' The man had brought his boat with him, which was made of skins, and about fourteen feet long. It was in shape like a large barge or trough, but sharp at both ends, with one round place in the centre to sit in. On 9th Oct. 1577 he amused the citizens of Bristol by rowing this boat up and down the river at the back of the city; and as he rowed up and down he killed with his dart a couple of ducks, and when he had done rowing carried away the boat on his back through the marsh. It was intended that these poor natives should be instructed in English to qualify them to act as interpreters in a future voyage; but the climate or diet of Bristol did not agree with them, and they all three died within the next month. (33)

Chester was in his old age a considerable benefactor to the charities of his

native city of Bristol, for he conveyed, by deed of gift dated 18th June, 24th Eliz. (1582), two houses in St. James's Back to the Corporation, upon trust, to pay for ever out of the rents thereof 7*l.* 16*s.* per annum to the poor of the parish of St. John Baptist, and 40*s.* per annum to poor prisoners in Bridewell, and one shilling a quarter to the Almshouses in St. James's Back, which had been founded and endowed by his father, William Chester. In consideration of this gift the Corporation entered into a covenant that Chester should never thereafter be constrained to take upon him the office of the Mayor of the city. (8)

He retained, however, his Alderman's gown until his death, and would seem to have died of some prevailing epidemic, for it is recorded that he was one of three* Aldermen who died in the same week and lay unburied at the same time. He was buried at St. James's, Bristol, 24th Sept. 1583. (20)

THOMAS CHESTER, ALDERMAN OF BRISTOL. Will dated 18th Sept. 1577.

To be buried at the discretion of my overseers. To Katherine my wife 200 pounds, to be paid within six months after my death, and my best bason and ewer of silver and gylt, one dozen of my best silver spoones with the appostelles heads, my salt with the alabaster in him which is well wrought and gylt, and my 3 tankeres of silver, a goblet all gylt, and one other goblett parcel gylt, and a casting bottle all gylt. Also during her lyfe £80 a yeare to be paid her £20 every quarter, and for lacke of payment she may distraine uppon all my landes for the same, and my heire shall forfeyte £5 at every time she is not paide within 15 daies after every quarter. Also to my said wife my house I dwell in during her widowe's estate with all the implements thereunto belonging, and the best fetherbed, the second fetherbed, and two other fetherbeds with twoe flocke beddings, and the one halfe of my lynen, and my best clothe carpett bought of my late brother Domynick, and halfe my pewter and brasse; all this I give her frankly and with all my harte, and she to have the use of all my standing beddes, table boordes, draperie, and all other necessaries, &c. in the house, and also the use of five peeces of arras hangyng in the parlour, all which she is to have the use ofe during her widdowe's estate. I know her to be of a good nature, therefore lett her have it quietly as my mynde and will is.

To my daughter Anne £400 to be paid within one yeare after my death; also my little bason and ewer of silver bought last of Edward Chester, and one of my best boles of silver and well gylt with the cover which I bought in London, the neste together. Also my lease of the Downs, with the lease of the tithing to the same house belonging, which lease of the Downs I hold of Sir Ralph Sadler, and the tithing I bought of Mr. Revell. Also my best ringe with a greene stone.

To Mary Chester and Anne Chester, my brother Domynick's daughters, 100 markes each, to be paid at marriage or age of 18. To Edward Chester, my brother Domynick's sonne, £40 at 21. To his brother Giles Chester £40 at 21. To his brother Arthure Chester £20. To his brother Charles Chester £20 if he comes home in safety. To Alice, my brother Domynick's daughter, 100 markes at 17 or marriage.

To Thomas Chester, my brother William's sonne, that did dwell with Robert Prince, £10. To Mary Chester and Elizabeth Chester, my brother William's daughters, £10 each, to their owne use, and not to their husbands'.

To Edward Chester, my nephew, £20, and the lease of a shop. To James Chester my godsonne, Edward Chester's sonne, £10 at 21, and to my cozen Edward Chester's daughter, Mary, £10 at 18.

To Anne Smith, my wife's daughter, £10. To Anne Smith, the daughter of Thomas Smith,

* The other two Aldermen were *Thomas Kelke*, who was Sheriff with Chester in 1559, and Mayor in 1573; and *William Tucker*, who succeeded Chester as Mayor in 1570.

now with Mr. Cole, £10 at her marriage. To Joice Spratt £10 at her marriage. To Alice Rowlie £20 on the daie of her marriage. To Joane Gronowe £5 within two yeares of my decease. To William Lary my servant £10. Item, unto one hundred poore housholders twoe shillinges a pece, to such as my overseers thinketh most meete. To the poore in St. James's parisshe £5. To the poore in St. Jone's parishe £2. To the poore in Ratcliff Tempell £5, and of St. Thomas' parishe £5.

To John Davyes 20s. yerely during his life. To Thomas Westerley my servant £2. To Elizabeth Bush, widowe, £2.

The rest of all my worldly goods unto William Chester my sonne, whom I make my sole executor. Sir Richard Barkeley,* Knight, and John Roberts to be my overseers of my Will.

Witnesses: Richard Barkeley, John Roberts, William Lary.

Will proved in C.P.C. 9th Feb. 1584-5, by Edward Barker, LL.B., proctor for William Chester, executor.

Thomas Chester of Almondsbury married two wives, Agnes and Catherine; but his first wife was the mother of his children, and 'Maistris Chester' was buried at St. John's, Bristol, on 14th Feb. 1567-8. (31) He married secondly at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on 26th Sept. 1569, Catherine, daughter of James Shepherd, merchant of Bristol, and widow of Robert Smith of that city, (26) whose sister Mary was the wife of James Chester (*see p. 14*). Catherine survived her second husband six years, and was buried at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on 6th Oct. 1589. (26)

Thomas Chester had issue by his first wife three children.

I. WILLIAM CHESTER, his son and heir.

II. EDWARD CHESTER, died unmarried before his father.

III. ANNE CHESTER, married at St. John's, Bristol, on 24th Nov. 1574, John Caplin, Esq., of Southampton, M.P. for Winchester,† (31) and died without issue before 1623. (15)

II.

WILLIAM CHESTER, the only surviving son of Thomas of Almondsbury, is mentioned in his grandfather's Will in 1558, and succeeded to all his father's estates in 1584. He married Katherine, daughter of Richard Dennys, Esq., of Pucklechurch, in Gloucestershire, by Anne, daughter of Sir John St. John, Kt. (35) This marriage considerably added to his social position, for his wife was related to the Lords Berkeley and other leading families in Gloucestershire. She bore *Gules a bend Azure between three leopards' faces Or, jessant fleurs-de-lys of the second*. Chester was the first of his family who was not a merchant of Bristol. He fixed his residence at Knole, in the parish of Almondsbury, and built there the mansion which is still the seat of his descendants. Knole Park stands on the brow of a hill two miles from the Severn, and looks over the river into Monmouthshire, commanding

* Sir Richard Berkeley of Stoke Gifford, the ancestor of Lord Botetourt, was knighted at Bristol by Queen Elizabeth on 15th Aug. 1574, and died 1604.

† John Caplin was M.P. for Southampton in the second Parliament of Queen Elizabeth 1562-7, and M.P. for Winchester in the fourth Parliament of the same reign 1572-83, when his brother Nicholas Caplin sat for Southampton. (13)

a glorious prospect of the Welsh hills. Chester was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1592, and died at Knole on 13th Oct. 1607. (36)

The usual inquest after his death was held by the King's Escheator at Chipping Sodbury on 16th Dec. 1607, when it was found that he had died, on 13th Oct. last past, seised in his demesne as of fee of the manors of Almondsbury and Brokenborow in the parish of Almondsbury; and also of the manor, Hundred, and Liberty of Barton Regis, near Bristol; and of certain woods called Barton Woods, parcel of the said manor of Barton Regis, and of all the coal-mines, clay-pits, and tile-pits in the same manor; AND ALSO of divers lands, pastures, and messuages at Tockington in the parish of Oulston *als.* Alveston, formerly belonging to the late dissolved free chapel at Tockington. AND THAT all the said premises had descended as of right to Thomas Chester, Esq., son and heir of the deceased. 2. THAT the manors of Almondsbury and Brokenborow were held of the King in capite by knight's service for the 40th part of one knight's fee, and were worth 42*l.* yearly beyond all reprises. AND THAT the said manor and Hundred and Liberty of Barton Regis were held of the King in capite by knight's service, and were worth beyond reprises 20*l.* yearly; but by what part of a knight's fee they were held, the jurors knew not. AND THAT the aforesaid premises in Alveston were held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich, in free soccage and not in capite, and were yearly worth beyond reprises 3*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* 3. THAT Thomas Chester, the son and heir of the deceased, was at the time of his father's death aged 20 years 1 month and 23 days, and that his mother Katharine Chester, late wife of the deceased, was living his widow at Almondsbury on the day of the inquest. (36)

William Chester had issue two sons and two daughters, viz.

I. THOMAS CHESTER, his son and heir.

II. WILLIAM CHESTER, died unmarried, and was buried at Almondsbury, 18th Oct. 1638. (39)

III. KATHARINE CHESTER, married on 18th Sept. 1606 at St. James's, Bristol, Philip Langley, Esq., of Mangotsfield. (20)

IV. ALICE CHESTER, married James Percivall, Esq., of Weston in Gordano, Somersetshire, (15) and had issue five sons and four daughters. He died in 1644, and was succeeded by his son Thomas Percivall, who was conspicuous for his devotion to the Royal cause in the Civil War. His manor-house at Weston was ransacked and the monuments of his ancestors in the church were defaced by the Roundheads, who compelled him to compound for his estate by payment of a fine of 258*l.* He had twice the honour of entertaining Charles II. at Weston, and died in 1691.* The Arms of Percivall were, *Argent on a chief indented Gules, three crosses patee of the first.*

* Collinson's *History of Somerset*, vol. iii. p. 172.

III.

THOMAS CHESTER II., son and heir of William of Knole by Katharine Dennis, was born on 21st Sept. 1587, (36) and was therefore still under age when his father died. He was a ward of the King, and by the custom of those times his wardship and marriage were purchased from the Crown by Samuel Backhouse, Esq., of Swallowfield in Berkshire, for the purpose of marrying him to one of his daughters. Chester married, accordingly, Anne Backhouse, the daughter of his guardian; but she died within a few years, leaving an only daughter of her own name, who did not survive her infancy. Chester married secondly, before 1623, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Speke, Kt., of White Lackington in Somersetshire; but she also died before him, leaving five children. He was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1617, and with his cousin Walter Chester of Bristol entered the pedigree of his family at the Visitation of Gloucestershire in 1623. (15)

Chester was getting an old man when the Civil Wars broke out; but he was loyal to his Sovereign, and took an active part in raising supplies of money and men for the King's service. His loyalty provoked the depredations of the Parliamentary garrison at Bristol, and the Governor issued a warrant on 10th April 1643 to seize Chester's cattle and goods, with those of his neighbours, Sir Robert Poyntz of Acton, and Captain Veel of Alveston, and to bring them into Bristol. (37) Three months afterwards Bristol surrendered to Prince Rupert, but it was retaken in September 1645 by the Parliamentary forces, when the estates of the Royalists in the vicinity were sequestered. Chester was one of the sufferers, and took advantage of the articles of surrender to compound for his estate. It was estimated at 357*l.* p.a., with 91*l.* 17*s.* p.a. old rents, and 7*l.* p.a. for a term of years, and was charged with 80*l.* p.a. for one life. His fine was fixed by the House of Commons on 27th Oct. 1646 at 1000*l.*; and it being certified to the House on 10th Nov. following that this sum had been duly paid, his pardon passed, and was sent to the Lords. (38)

He died intestate and a widower seven years afterwards, and was buried at Almondsbury 24th Nov. 1653. Letters of administration to his estate were granted on 10th Sept. 1658 to his daughter Elizabeth.

Thomas Chester had issue by his second wife, Elizabeth Speke, five children, four sons and a daughter:

I. ELIZABETH CHESTER was born in or just before 1623, and was the wife or widow of . . . Fullwood in Sept. 1658.

II. THOMAS CHESTER, son and heir.

III. WILLIAM CHESTER died unmarried, and was buried at Almondsbury 6th Oct. 1675. (39)

IV. DOMINICK CHESTER died unmarried, and was buried at Almondsbury 19th March 1669-70. (39)

V. GEORGE CHESTER died unmarried, and was buried at Almondsbury 22d Sept. 1685. (39)

IV.

THOMAS CHESTER III., the son and heir of Thomas Chester II. of Knole by Elizabeth Speke, was born about 1624, and succeeded to the family estates on his father's death in 1653. He married at St. Vedast's Church, Foster Lane, London, on 12th Jan. 1654-5, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Sir John Howe, Bart., of Little Compton in Gloucestershire, (40) by Bridget, daughter of Thomas Rich, Esq., of North Cerney, a Master in Chancery. Elizabeth was born 21st Dec. 1633, and was the seventh child of her parents, who were married on 28th July 1620. Her brother John was the lineal ancestor of the Viscounts Howe in the peerage of Ireland, and of the celebrated Admiral Lord Howe, K.G. (41)

Chester was after the Restoration a Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant, and held for many years the office of Vice-Admiral in Gloucestershire, which was usually filled by a personage of local distinction. (42) He was buried at Almondsbury on 26th Feb. 1686-7. (39)

THOMAS CHESTER OF KNOLL, IN THE PARISH OF ALMONDSBURY, CO. GLOUCESTER. Will dated 2d Feb. 1686-7.

Sick in body. To my very good friends Christopher Cole, Esq., Clayton Milbourne, Esq., Thomas Burnell, Gent., and Richard Hawksworth, Gent., and their heirs, all my manor and hundred of Barton Regis, near Bristol, and all my other lands there and in the parish of St. Philip and Jacob, Bristol; and also my six tenements at Easter Compton in Gloucestershire, now or late in the several tenures of Stephen Hollister, John Weasby, John Hollister, Thomas Hucknoll, John Barrett, and Robert Croome; and also all my tenements in the Marsh in the parish of Almondsbury in the several tenures of William Baker, Ralph Baker, Edward Edwards, and James Hollister, with all my other lands in Easter Compton and the said Marsh, upon trust to raise sufficient money, by sale or mortgage of the same or any part thereof, to pay all my own proper debts which shall be owing at the time of my death.

To the same trustees all my manors of Almondsbury and Brokenborow and my lands in Almondsbury, upon trust to provide out of the rents a convenient maintenance for my son until he be 21 or marry, and for my three unmarried daughters, until their portions be paid, and subject thereto, upon trust when my son Thomas Chester is 21 or marries, to convey all the said manors, lands, and tenements to my said son and the heirs male of his body in fee tail, with remainder to my four daughters and the heirs of their bodies in fee tail, remainder to my own right heirs. And when my son marries, my said trustees are empowered to make a jointure to his wife proportionate in value to her portion, and to make provision for his female issue in case he has no sons.

My loving wife Elizabeth, if she remains sole and my widow, to enjoy my capital mansion house at Knoll and all my park there until my son be married; but if she marry again, or neglect to educate and maintain my three daughters, Bridget, Anne, and Catherine, then my trustees are to dispose of the said mansion and park (until my son marries) as they shall think fit for the benefit of my three daughters. But if my wife to further my son in marriage relinquish any part of her jointure in Almondsbury, then the trustees are to make compensation to her out of my manor of Barton Regis and the 'colemines.'

To my said wife my coach and coach-horses and all my harness, &c. To each of my said three daughters £1000 each, to be paid at 21 or marriage. To Mrs. Anne Guillim £100. To my wife and children and Mrs. Guillim money for mourning. If any of my daughters die before 21 or marriage, then her portion is to be divided between her sisters, including my

daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Burnell. But if they all die, then the portions of two of them are to sink into my estate, and the portion of the last dying is to go to my daughter Burnell.

To my said trustees all my personal effects (except household stuff and plate) upon trust to pay my funeral expenses and debts, and to pay to each of themselves £5, and to pay the overplus (if any) to my son Thomas Chester. To my said son the following silver plate, viz. one large gossip's bowl, one large bason, one large cup with the cover, two candlesticks, two plates, ten spoons, two tankards, two tumblers, one long beaker, four saucers, six salts, one sugar-caster, one pepper-box, one snuffers and dish, and four forks. The rest of my silver to be divided equally between my four daughters.

To my wife £100. The residue to be sold for the benefit of the owner for the time being of my mansion house at Knowle. My said trustees to be my executors.

Witnesses: John Coldingham, Matthew Coldingham, Samuel Tysen, and Henry Wasborow. Will proved in C.P.C. 17th March 1686-7, by the three executors. [37 Foot.]

Thomas Chester III. of Knole had issue by his wife, Elizabeth Howe, five children, a son and four daughters, viz.

I. ELIZABETH CHESTER was born in 1656, and married, in her father's lifetime, Thomas Burnell, Esq., of Brimsham in Gloucestershire, who was one of the executors and trustees of his father-in-law's Will. He had no issue by his wife, whom he outlived; and being the last survivor of his family, he devised the Manor of Brimsham to his brother-in-law, Thomas Chester IV. of Knole. (14)

II. BRIDGET CHESTER married, after her father's death, Thomas Holworthy, Esq., of Rowberrow in Somersetshire, and died on 6th Nov. 1736, aged 79.

III. ANNE CHESTER was under age when her father died, and died unmarried.

IV. KATHARINE CHESTER married at Almondsbury, on 26th Jan. 1700-1, Edward Freeman, Esq., of Clifton, attorney-at-law. (43)

V. THOMAS CHESTER, son and heir.

V.

THOMAS CHESTER IV., the only son of Thomas Chester III. of Knole by Elizabeth Howe, was born in 1668, and was an undergraduate at Oxford at the time of his father's death. He had matriculated at Merton College on 12th March 1685-6, when he was seventeen years of age; (25) but his father's death liberated him from control, and he left the University without taking a degree. He married Anne, third daughter of Sir Samuel Astry, Kt., of Henbury in Gloucestershire, who was Clerk of the Crown in Chancery twenty-seven years, and acquired the Henbury estate by his marriage with Elizabeth, the only child of George Morse, Esq., of that place. Sir Samuel gave his daughter 6000*l.* on her marriage, and her eldest son eventually inherited one-fourth part of the Astry estates; for Mrs. Chester and her husband both died in the lifetime of her father, who died on 25th Sept. 1704; and when his only surviving son, St. John Astry died unmarried on 21st Nov. 1712, his three surviving sisters and his nephew, Thomas Chester V., were his coheirs. (44) (*See pedigree of Astry in Chapter VI.*)

Chester was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1699, and died at the age of 36; for he was buried at Almondsbury on 26th Feb. 1704-5. (43) His wife had died in childbed eighteen months before; and was buried at Almondsbury on 6th Aug. 1703. (43)

Thomas Chester IV. of Knole had issue by his wife, Anne Astry, eight children, five sons and three daughters, who were all baptized at Almondsbury. (43)

I. ELIZABETH CHESTER, afterwards Lady Cann, of whom hereinafter, and from whom the present owner of Knole is lineally descended.

II. THOMAS CHESTER, son and heir.

III. ANNE CHESTER was baptized on 25th May 1697, and was buried on 16th March following. (43)

IV. WILLIAM CHESTER was born on 28th April 1698, and was baptized on 30th June. (43) He was a solicitor in Chancery, and had chambers at New Inn in the Strand. He died unmarried 1st July 1728. (45)

V. RICHARD HOWE CHESTER, of whom hereinafter, was the father of Mrs. Bromley Chester of Knole, who succeeded in 1763 to the estates of her uncle Thomas Chester V.

VI. CHARLES CHESTER was born on 13th Feb. 1701-2, and was baptized on 14th Feb. (43) He died unmarried 22d March 1730. (45)

VII. ST. JOHN ASTRY CHESTER was born on 27th June 1702, and was baptized on 1st July, when he was the godson of his mother's only surviving brother. (43) He matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, 2d July 1719, (25) where he graduated B.A. 13th July 1723, and M.A. 10th Nov. 1727. He entered Holy Orders, and dying unmarried in London was buried at St. Andrew's, Holborn, on 1st Nov. 1728. (40)

VIII. ANNE CHESTER was baptized on 2d Aug. 1703, and was buried on the next day. (43)

VI.

THOMAS CHESTER V., the son and heir of Thomas Chester IV. of Knole by Anne Astry, was born on 2d May 1696, and was therefore a boy of seven when his father died. He matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, 10th May 1713; (25) but, like his father, he did not care to take his degree. He married, on 25th Sept. 1721, Lady Sarah Harriett Howard, daughter of Henry sixth Earl of Suffolk; (46) but she died without issue six months afterwards, and was buried at Almondsbury on 6th April 1722. (43)

Chester was elected, on 17th Jan. 1727, M.P. for the city of Gloucester on the death of Mr. Snell, and was again chosen at the general election in 1728; but the Sheriff made a double return, and Chester resigned his seat to avoid the risk and expense of a scrutiny. He had, however, acquitted himself so well in Parliament that he was returned without opposition in 1734 as one of the knights of the shire. He represented Gloucestershire in five successive Parliaments, during a period of thirty-one years, and retained his seat until his death. Some two

years after his election for the county he greatly improved his fortune by marrying a rich widow, who was just of his own age. His second wife Mary was the widow of George Gwinnett, Esq., of Shurdington in the parish of Badgeworth, and was the only child of Jeremy Gough, Esq., of London, from whom she had inherited 30,000*l*.* (46) The marriage† was celebrated at Mercers' Chapel on 28th Feb. 1735-6, (40) and the ceremony was performed by Mr. Anthony Chester, a cadet of the Chesters of Chicheley, who was then the chaplain of the Mercers' Company, and afterwards succeeded as the ninth Baronet of his family.

Chester had no children by his second marriage; but his stepson George Gwinnett Gough, who bore his mother's maiden name, was warmly attached to him; and when George died unmarried, on 27th May 1756, he devised by his Will the manors of Shurdington and Down Hatherley to his mother and her second husband. (47)

The inheritance of the Chesters at Barton Regis comprised the lordship of Kingswood in the parish of St. Philip and St. Jacob, Bristol; and when that parish was divided by Act of Parliament in 1751, Chester gave the site for the new district church of St. George, with its churchyard and parsonage, and contributed munificently to the building fund. (8) He survived his sister and all his brothers, and died on 1st Oct. 1763, without issue, (46) when his estates passed by his Will to his niece Elizabeth Lucy Chester, the only child of his deceased brother Richard, who was his heiress at law, and was betrothed with his full consent and approbation to his grand-nephew Thomas Master, the grandson of his sister Lady Cann.

THOMAS CHESTER OF KNOLE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, Esq. Will dated 21st Feb. 1761.

To my loving wife Mary Chester all her jewels and all my furniture, linen, and books at Knole, with all my carriages and horses, for her absolute use.

To the youngest daughter of Benjamin Bathurst, Esq., M.P., £500. To my niece Elizabeth Chester-Master £500.

Whereas my wife is entitled under our marriage-settlement to an annuity of £700 p.a. out of my estate, 'Now in satisfaction of such rent-charge, if she will be pleased to choose and accept of the same, I give her for her life my capital messuage called Knole, with the garden and park, stocked with deer, and also the manor of Almondsbury, and my lands there of the present annual value of £1000 or thereabouts.

'It being my wish that my niece Lucy Chester should be married to my nephew Thomas Master, son of my said niece Elizabeth Chester-Master,' I give all my estates, subject to my debts, legacies, and funeral expenses, to my said wife, my said niece Elizabeth Chester-Master, and my friend Jarrit Smith upon trust for my niece Lucy Chester, for her life, without impeachment of waste, and after her death for my nephew Thomas Master, if he be her husband, but not otherwise, with remainder to the first and other sons successively of my said niece by my said nephew, with remainder to her daughters as tenants in common, with remainder to my own right heirs. But in case my said nephew and niece shall not be married at the time of my death, or within three years afterwards, or in case my said nephew shall not at that time be in the pos-

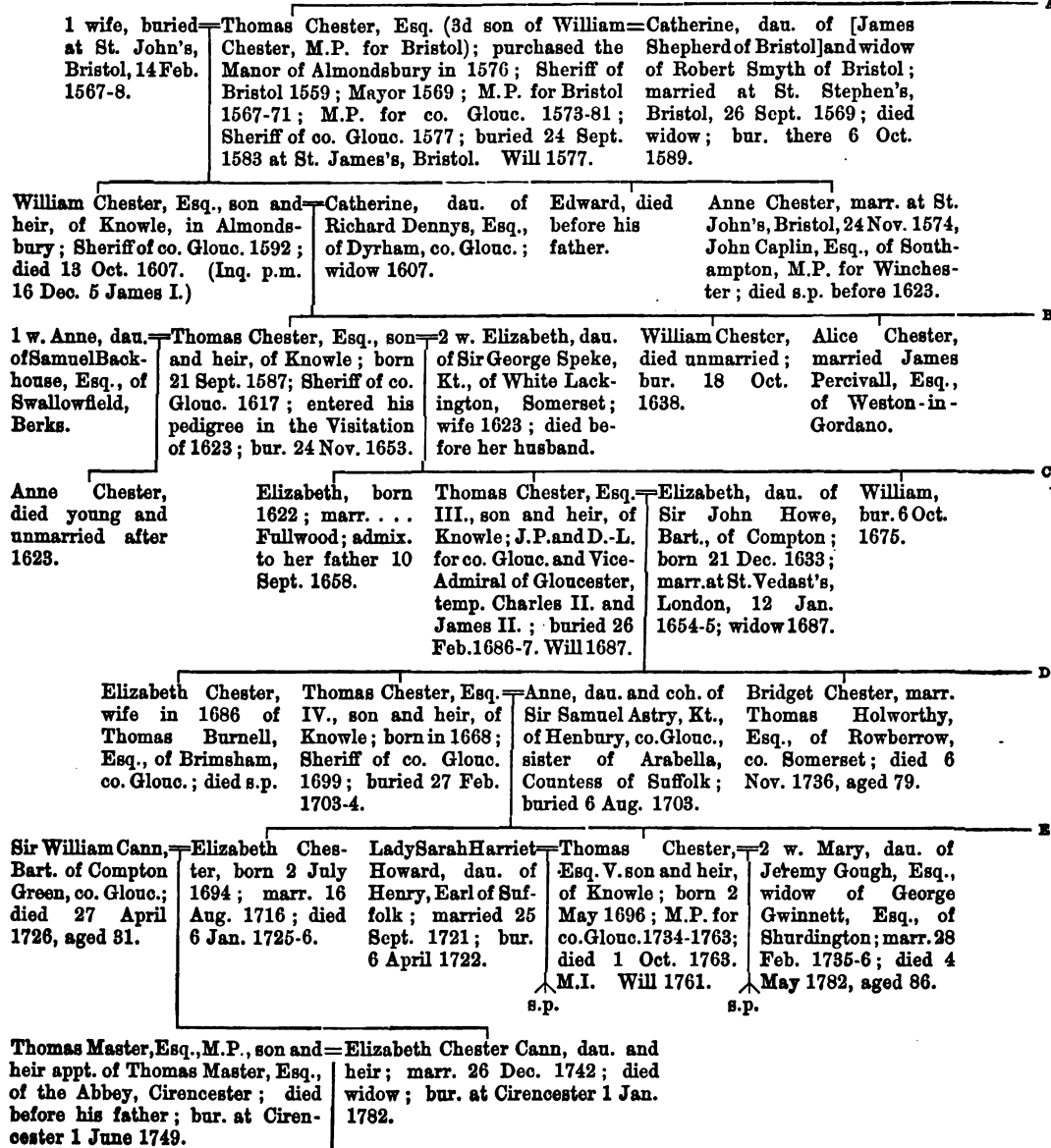
* The *Gentleman's Magazine* announces the marriage in these quaint terms: '1736, Feb. 28. Thomas Chester, Esq., M.P. for Gloucestershire, to Mrs. Gwinnett, with £30,000.' (46)

† The license for his marriage issued from the Vicar-General's Registry: (25)
1735-6, Feb. 24. Thomas Chester of Knowle, in the parish of Almondsbury, co. Gloucester, Esq., widower, to marry Mary Gwinnett of Great Shurdington, in the parish of Badgeworth, widow. To marry at St. Paul's Cathedral, or at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, or at Mercers' Chapel, London.

PEDIGREE III.

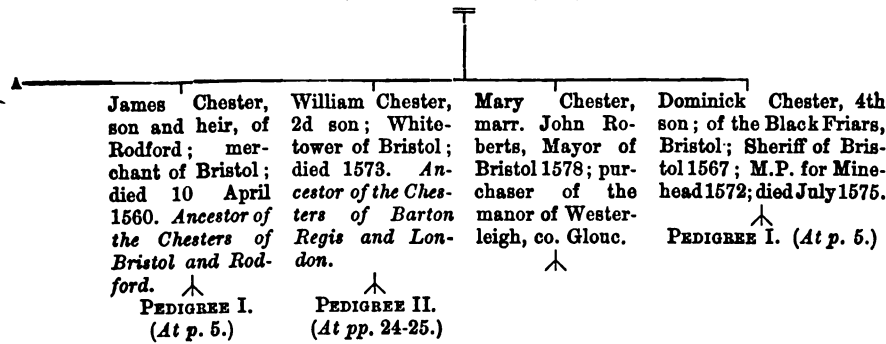
PEDIGREE OF CHESTER OF KNOLE.

Registers not specified are from Almondsbury.



PEDIGREE OF CHESTER MASTER.
(See p. 98.)

William Chester, M.P. for Bristol 1555; died 1558.
(See PEDIGREE I. at p. 5.)



Catherine Chester, marr. 18 Sept. 1606, Philip Langley, Esq., of Mangotsfield.

Dominick, bur. 19 March 1669-70. George Chester, bur. 22 Sept. 1685.



Anne, 1687, died unmarr. Catherine Chester, marr. 26 Jan. 1700-1, Edward Freeman, Esq., of Clifton.

Diagram showing the children of Catherine Chester:

- Anne, bapt. 25 May 1697; bur. 16 Mar. 1697-8. William Chester, bapt. 30 June 1698; Solicitor in Chancery; died unm. 1 July 1728.
- 3. Richard Howe Chester, Esq., of Haseley, co. Warwick; jure ux.; born 11 Jan. 1699-1700; marr. license dated 16 May 1739; died 15 July 1760. Will.
- Lucy, dau. and heir. of Clement Throckmorton, Esq., of Haseley, and widow of William Bromley, Esq., M.P. of Baginton; died widow 27 Sept. 1771. Will.
- Charles Chester, bapt. 14 Feb. 1700-1; died unmarr. 22 Mar. 1730. Anne Chester, bapt. 2 Aug. 1703; bur. 3 Aug. 1703.
- St. John Astry Chester, born 27 June 1702; M.A. of Oriel Coll. Oxon. 1727; entered Holy Orders; died unmarr.; bur. at St. Andrew's, Holborn, 1 Nov. 1728.

Elizabeth Lucy Chester, only child, bapt. at St. James's, Westminster, 21 Feb. 1741; heiress of Knole and Barton Regis; died 9 Jan. 1799.

William Bromley Chester, Esq., assumed the name of Chester on his marriage; marr. 20 April 1765; M.P. for co. Glouc. 1774-80; died 12 Dec. 1780. Will 1780.

s.p.

session of real estate of the yearly value of £1000, then the devises heretofore made of my estates shall be absolutely void, and in lieu thereof I bequeath to my said nephew Thomas Master £1000, to be paid at the end of three years after my wife's death, and subject thereto I give all my manors and lands to my said niece Lucy Chester and her heirs in fee simple.

My funeral to be private, decent, but without much expense, and I desire to be buried at Almondsbury, only I desire a proper monument may be erected in memory of my ancestors, wives, and myself (if my present wife chuses to lie there).

My said wife, my said niece Elizabeth Chester-Master, and the said I
executors.

Mrs. Chester raised a noble monument in the Church. (39) It is affixed to the wall of Egyptian marble. In front stands a vase, with a countenance expressing the discloses the Arms of Chester, with an bearing *Gules on a fess Argent a lion passant guardant Or*, Gough. Below, upon a large

TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS CHESTER, ESQ.

Arthur Chester, Gent. was
William Chester, Esq.
William Chester, Gent.
Thomas Chester, Esq.
Dominick Chester, Gent.
William Chester, Gent.
George Chester, Gent.
Thomas Chester, Esq.
Thomas Chester, Esq.

The succession of this lineage was closed with the Knole, Son of the last recorded of this name. He was brought up to be Knight of the shire in five successive Parliaments became him to their choice by the most inflexible attachment of his country. From these he could never be prevailed on by one vote, or conniving absence, to desert or disappoint

His country must long ago lament in him the loss of Justice was his constant object, temper'd only with compassion which his benevolent heart would never suffer him to estrange to be biassed by any sinister view, or private interest, from

Nor was he less amiable in his private character than reputation in which he stood, answering with his best performance sustaining in character, as in the different scenes of life the Friend, the Neighbour, the Friend, the Brother, the Husband, with no less esteem, affection, and virtue than the Magistrate and Senator: a truth which cannot better be evinced than by the great and heart-impress'd grief that not only attended his loss, but has faithfully adhered to his memory; and which, as long as any traces of it shall remain with those who had the happiness to know him, will more than answer this or any other Record that can be given of him.

His first Wife was the Right Honourable Sarah Henrietta, the only Daughter of Henry Earl of Suffolk and Bindon, by Penelope, Daughter of the Earl of Thomond, who was buried 6th April 1722. In 1735 he married Mary, the Widow of George Gwinnet, Esq., of Shurdington in this County, and Daughter and Heiress of Jeremy Gough, Esq., of London.

He died on the 1st of October 1763, and having no Issue left his Estate to his Niece Elizabeth

Lucy Chester, Wife of William Bromley Chester, Esq., and only Child of his Brother Richard Chester, Esq., who died on the 15th of July 1760, and lies also near him.

Mary Chester, his surviving Widow, deeply afflicted for his Loss and venerating his Memory and Virtues, took upon herself the Care and Direction of this Monument.

MARY CHESTER, the widow of Thomas Chester V. of Knole, survived her husband nineteen years, and died on 4th May 1782 at the age of 86, (46) when she performed by her Will an act of justice to the family of her first husband; for she devised to his nephew the Gwinnett estates at Badgeworth and Down Hatherley. (47) Knole Park had been secured to her for her life by her husband's Will, and descended on her death to his niece, Mrs. Bromley Chester, who was then a widow of 41 without children, having lost her husband 17 months before.

VII.

RICHARD HOWE CHESTER, the third son of Thomas Chester IV. of Knole, by Anne Astry, was born on 10th Jan. 1700-1, and was baptized the next day at Almondsbury, (40) when his godfather was his father's cousin, Sir Richard Howe, Bart., of Wickford in Wiltshire, who was the third Baronet of his family and the nephew of Elizabeth Howe, the wife of Thomas Chester III. of Knole. It was a fortunate choice of a godfather, for Sir Richard had no issue by his wife Mary Thynne, and when he died on 3d July 1730 he devised by his Will to his kinsman and godson Richard Howe Chester an estate in Hampshire called Lackford Farm, which was to revert after his death to his cousin John Grubham Howe of Stowell, who was created in 1741 Lord Chedworth. Being thus provided with a competent maintenance by his godfather's bounty he improved his position, at the age of 39, by marrying a widow of family and fortune six years younger than himself. He married by license,* dated 16th May 1739, Mrs. Bromley of Haseley Manor in Warwickshire, the widow of William Bromley, Esq., of Bagginton in the same county. Mr. Bromley was by birth and estate one of the leading gentlemen in Warwickshire, and was the eldest surviving son and heir of the well-known Speaker of the House of Commons, who represented the University of Oxford in Parliament for twenty-six years, and was Secretary of State in the Tory Cabinet of Queen Anne. Like his father, he was a staunch supporter of Church and State, and was M.P. for the University of Oxford when he died on 12th March 1736-7, at the early age of 38. (46) He had married, on 2d July 1724, Lucy Throckmorton, the heiress of Haseley Manor, which had been the seat of a younger branch of the Throckmortons since the reign of Henry VIII., when it was granted by the King to a younger son of Sir George Throckmorton of Coughton, the ancestor of the baronets of that name. (48) Mrs. Bromley was 18 years old at the time of her marriage, and was the posthumous

* *Marriage License from the Vicar-General's Registry* : (25)
1739, May 16. Richard Chester, of the parish of St. James, Westminster, Esq., bachelor, aged 30 and upwards, to marry Lucy Bromley, of St. George's, Hanover-square, widow. To marry at St. Botolph, Aldgate, or at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, London.

and only child of Clement Throckmorton, Esq., of Haseley, by his wife Lucy, the daughter of Captain Thomas Lucy of Charlecote, and the step-daughter of George Fitzroy, Duke of Northumberland. She had great personal attractions, and was left a widow at the age of 31 with a considerable income, for she was in the enjoyment of an ample jointure under her marriage settlement, and was tenant for life of the estate which she inherited from her father at her birth. She had issue by her first husband three children, who were all very young at the time of their father's death, but were old enough two years afterwards to resent their mother's second marriage to the younger brother of a Gloucestershire squire. She insisted, however, on marrying the man of her choice, and was consoled for the alienation of her elder children by the affection of her second husband and their daughter.

Richard Howe Chester resided after his marriage in his wife's house at Haseley, and died there on 15th July 1760, but he was buried with his ancestors at Almondsbury. (39) He left an only child, ELIZABETH LUCY, who succeeded, in 1763, to the estates of her paternal uncle, Thomas Chester V. of Knole.

RICHARD CHESTER OF HASELEY, WARWICKSHIRE, Esq. Will dated 25th June 1756.

To be buried at Almondsbury. My debts and funeral expenses to be paid out of the rents of my wife Lucy's jointure from her first husband William Bromley, Esq.

To my said wife Lucy Chester, all my household goods, books, and plate in my house at Haseley; my coach, chariot, horses, and my emerald ring set round with diamonds; and all the furniture in my house in Conduit-street.

To my brother Thomas Chester, Esq., 30 guineas; and to my sister Chester his wife, a ring.

To my niece Master, a ring. To John Warren of Almondsbury, £5.

The rest of my real and personal estate to my wife Lucy Chester, my brother Thomas Chester, my friend William Throckmorton Bromley of Baginton, co. Warwick, Esq., and John Dighton of Staple Inn, Middx., Gent., upon trust, to pay £100 a year for the education and maintenance of my daughter Elizabeth Lucy Chester until she be 21 years of age or be married, and then upon trust for my said daughter absolutely. My wife Lucy Chester, my brother Thomas Chester, William Throckmorton Bromley, Norborne Berkeley, and John Dighton to be my Executors and Guardians of my daughter.

CODICIL dated 9th Nov. 1759.

I revoke the bequest to my wife Lucy Chester of my books at Haseley and in London, and give them to my daughter Elizabeth Lucy Chester, 'imagining that they may be of more use and amusement to her.'

Will proved on 17th Sept. 1760 by the Widow, W. T. Bromley, and John Dighton, and on 13th Dec. 1760 by Thomas Chester, power being reserved to Norborne Berkeley, Esq. [349 Lynch.]

Mrs. Chester survived her second husband eleven years, and died in London at her house in Conduit-street on 27th Sept. 1771, aged 66. (46) Her Will, with its precautions against her being buried before she was actually dead, and with the provision made for her favourite lap-dog Chloe, is characteristic of the fears and fancies of a fine lady of the last century. Her want of affection for her first husband and his children is painfully apparent in her Will, for her two sons are completely ignored, and her daughter Lucy Bromley is dismissed with a trifling legacy; whilst it is implied by the directions for her burial with her second husband at

Almondsbury, or with her father at Haseley, that she never contemplated the possibility of being buried with her first husband at Bagginton.

LUCY CHESTER OF ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER-SQUARE, MIDDLESEX, WIDOW.

Will dated 1st April 1769.

To be buried privately at Almondsbury, in Gloucestershire, or at Haseley, in Warwickshire, 'but I prefer the former, and therefore most desire to be buried in the parish church there.' 'I desire my daughter Chester will take care that I be not laid out or put into a coffin until I am quite cold, but that my body may be kept as long as conveniently may be before it is put into my coffin; Robert Chipchase, upholsterer, to be employed in the furnishing my funeral.'

To my son-in-law William Bromley Chester, Esq., and Elizabeth Lucy his wife £1000 £4 per cent bank annuities upon trust to pay out of the dividends the following annuities, viz. To my servant Mary Chipchase £5 a year for her life; to my coachman John Mainwaring £6 p.a. for life; to my late servant Jane Young, now wife of James Young, a brewer's clerk, £6 p.a. for life; to my late servant Lucy Chipchase, wife of the before-mentioned Robert Chipchase, £6 p.a. for life; and subject to these annuities I give the said £1000 to my said daughter Elizabeth Lucy Chester for her own use and benefit.

To Miss Judith Roberts of Stamford, Lincolnshire, £30 p.a. for life; and, in case my said daughter declines to take care of my lap-dog Chloe, I leave the care thereof to the said Miss Judith Roberts, to whom my executors are to pay £5 a year as long as the dog lives.

To my said daughter Elizabeth Lucy £1000, for her sole and separate use, free from the control of her husband. To my daughter Lucy Bromley £100. To Mrs. Elizabeth Dighton £30. To Mr. Leonard Martin £3. To Mr. Truesdale, apothecary in St. James's-street, £2. To Miss Mary Elliott, daughter of Sir John Elliott, £20. To William Norton, my butler, £30. To Catherine Lloyd, my cook, £10. Also to the said William Norton and Catherine Lloyd, and to the other footman and housemaid who shall be living with me at the time of my death, a year's wages over and above what shall be due to them; and my said cook and housemaid are to have mourning given them. To the poor of the parishes of Haseley, Hatton, Shrawley, and Bowsall £30.

To my said daughter Elizabeth Lucy Chester all my household goods and furniture, plate, china, linen, and pictures, and all my jewels, except my ruby ring set with diamonds, which I bequeath to my granddaughter Lucy Bromley. To my servant Mary Chipchase all my clothes and wearing-apparel whatsoever.

And whereas by indenture dated 16th May 1728, and made between William Bromley the younger, of Haseley, Esq., and me, the said Lucy Chester, by the name and description of Lucy, his wife, only daughter and heir of Clement Throckmorton, late of Haseley, Esquire, deceased, of the first part; the Right Honourable Edward Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh, and the Right Honourable William Lord Stawell of Somerton, in Somersetshire, of the second part; Christopher Wren of Wroxhall, Warwickshire, Esq., and Samuel Underhill of Idlicote, in the same county, Esq., of the third part; the said Wren and Underhill and the survivor of them was impowered to raise such sum of money (not exceeding £1500) as I should by deed or will appoint, notwithstanding my coverture; and whereas the said Wren and Underhill are now both dead, I do hereby direct the executors of the said Underhill, who was the surviving trustee, to levy and raise the said sum of £1500, and to pay thereout £600 to Theobald Burke, Esq., of Dartmouth-street, Westminster, of the Kingdom of Ireland, and a near relation of the famous Mr. Burke of the House of Commons; and to pay the remaining £900 to my son-in-law William Bromley Chester and Elizabeth Lucy his wife, whom I appoint my executors and residuary legatees.

To my friend Arthur Benjamin Lane, Esq., two guineas for a ring.

Witnesses: William Morse; Duncan Stewart, Conduit-street; Thomas Dyer, Bruton-street.

Codicil dated 31st January 1771.

The annuity to my coachman Mainwaring to be increased to ten guineas a year, to be paid quarterly for his support; 'I being, I thank God, in perfect health.'

(Signed)

LUCY CHESTER,
Conduit-street.

Will proved in C.P.C., 3d October 1771.

ELIZABETH LUCY CHESTER, the only child of Richard Howe Chester, Esq., of Haseley, by Lucy Throckmorton, was baptized at St. James's, Westminster, on 21st Feb. 1741, (40) and was therefore 22 years of age when she succeeded to the family estates of the Chesters under her uncle's Will. She was then the promised wife of Thomas Master, the eldest son of her uncle's other niece, who was as dear to him as if she had been his own child; for she had been his ward from girlhood and had lived with him at Knole until her marriage in 1742. This marriage had been arranged for the heiress by her uncle, who had set his heart on securing the succession of his estates to the son of his favourite niece; whilst he felt himself bound in justice to devise them to his brother's daughter, who was the last survivor of the Chesters. It was in many respects a suitable match; for Thomas Master was the heir-expectant of The Abbey at Cirencester and large estates in Gloucestershire, as well as of his mother's estates in Somersetshire, and his paternal grandfather had promised to settle on him 1000*l.* a year on his marriage. But he was scarcely 19 years old when his grand-uncle died, and the heiress had no love for a boy three years younger than herself, to whom she had only consented to be engaged from not caring to offend her uncle, whose estates were at his own disposal. When, therefore, her uncle's death left her free to follow her own inclinations, the engagement was quickly broken off; and she married, on 20th April 1765, William Bromley, Esq., the nephew* of her mother's first husband, who assumed† after his marriage the name and arms of Chester. He was the only son of the Rev. Francis Bromley, D.D., Rector of Wickham, Hants, by Rebecca, the only child of Dr. Francis Gastrell, Bishop of Chester, and was baptized at Wickham on 20th July 1738. He was educated at Westminster School, and matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, on 27th Jan. 1757, (25) but left the university without taking his degree. He was no great match for the heiress of the Chesters, for his mother was still living at the time of his marriage, and she had a life interest in the whole estate, which the Bishop of Chester had settled on his grandson. The heiress of the Chesters, however, could afford to disregard considerations of money, and she was encouraged by her mother's example to give her hand where she had given her heart.

The owners of Knole had, since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, often represented Gloucestershire in Parliament as Knights of the Shire; and when Mr. Edward Southwell of King's Weston, the sitting member, was raised to the peerage in 1776 as Lord de Clifford, by the termination of the abeyance, Mr. Bromley Chester of Knole came forward as the Tory candidate for the seat. His opponent was the Hon. George Cranfield Berkeley, who was supported by all the wealth and influence of the Berkeley family. The poll was kept open thirteen days at a ruinous expense,

* See Pedigree of Bromley and Gastrell at pp. 48-49.

† It was most unusual at this period for persons of any rank to assume a name without the authority of a Royal license or an Act of Parliament; but in Mr. Bromley's case there is no such authorisation on record.

and Chester was returned by a small majority. Party feeling ran high, and a petition was presented against the return, in which the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire (Mr. Cann Lippincott), who was through the Canns a family connexion of the Chesters, was accused of partiality to the successful candidate; but the Sheriff was acquitted by the House of Commons, and Chester's election was declared valid. He retained his seat until his death; for although he made no distinguished figure in Parliament, he took an active part in county business, and was highly respected by his neighbours and constituents. Like most 'old Westminsters' he was a constant attendant at the Latin play, which is acted by the scholars in the Long Room at Christmas; and he was one of the stewards of the school festival in Dec. 1779; (49) but this was his last appearance there, for he died in the next year at Cleve Hill, near Bristol, on 12th Dec. 1780. (46) His last illness was a short one, and on Monday, 4th Dec., eight days before his death, he sent for his attorney, Mr. William Turton of Alveston, to make his Will. Mr. Turton found him at Cleve Hill, ill in bed but in full possession of his senses, and was directed 'not to ask him any questions, but to write from his dictation as fast as possible what was intended as instructions for his Will.' Mr. Turton was to return the next day with the Will formally drawn for execution, but by way of precaution Mr. Bromley Chester signed the instructions as a Will in the presence of two witnesses. It was well that he did so, for he never rallied again to sign a more formal document.

WILLIAM BROMLEY CHESTER OF CLEVE HILL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, Esq.

Nuncupative Will, dated 4th Dec. 1780.

'Everything of every sort and kind to my wife. I beg and entreat Thomas Knight and Edward Lassells to be joint-executors with her, to assist her in the care and management of her affairs. To each of them £100 a peice. To Mr. Wray and my sister Mrs. Wray £100 a peice. To each of my godchildren theirs (*sic*) £100 a peice. To my friend Mr. Way £50. This is what I mean to be my last will and testament, and hope it will be taken as such if I am not able to make a better.'

Witness my hand this third day of December 1780.

Will proved in C.P.C. 20th February 1781 by all three executors.

Mr. Bromley Chester had no issue by the heiress of the Chesters, who survived him nineteen years. She succeeded to Knole Park on the death of her uncle's widow in May 1782, and died in London at her house in Upper Brook-street on 9th Jan. 1799. (46) She was the last survivor of the family of Chester, and devised by her Will the manors of Almondsbury, Barton Regis, and Brimsham, with the rest of the Chester estates, to her cousin Thomas Master of The Abbey, Cirencester, the grandson of her father's only sister, Lady Cann, with remainder in default of his male issue to his brother, Richard Master, in tail male. (45)

PEDIGREE OF BROMLEY OF BAGGINTON.

Arms (borne by William Bromley, afterwards William Bromley Chester, Esq., M.P., before his marriage with the heiress of Knole). Quarterly 1 and 4, quarterly per fess indented gules and or, a griffin segreant vert on an escutcheon argent, with a crescent for difference: BROMLEY. 2 and 3, chequy argent and sable on a chief or, three bucks' heads coupé of the second: GASTRELL.

1 w. Catharine, dau. and coh. of Sir John Clobery, Kt., of Winchester.	=2 w. Trevor, dau. of Samuel For- trety, Esq., of St. Giles - in - the - Fields; married 21 Nov. 1689, at All Hallows, Bar- king.	=3 w. Cecilia, dau. of Sir William Swan, Bart.	=Right Hon ^{ble} . William Brom- ley of Bagginton; matriculated at Ch. Ch., Oxon, 12 April 1679, aged 15; D.C.L. 1702; M.P. for Warwickshire 1690, and for Oxford University 1701-27; Speaker of the House of Com- mons 1710; Secretary of State to Queen Anne; died 13 Feb. 1731-2; bur. at Bagginton.	=4 wife, Elizabeth, dau. of Ralph Lord Stawell; li- cense to marry dated 12 Jan. 1697-8.
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Clobery Bromley, Esq., = Dorothy, dau. and
son and heir-appt.; ma- coh. of William
triculated at Ch. Ch., Ox- Bromley, Esq., of
on, 29 April 1708, aged Holt Castle; widow
15; married at St. Ann's, 17 May 1711.
Westminster, 25 March
1708; M.P. for Coventry;
died May 1711, s.p.

Thomas Bromley, Esq.,
son and heir-appt.; ma-
triculated at Ch. Ch., Ox-
on, 7 June 1710, aged
17; M.A. 21 July 1716;
died at Bagginton . .
Aug. 1716.

William Throck-
morton Bromley,
Esq., of Bagginton,
son and heir; M.P.
for Warwickshire;
buried 12 March
1789 at Bagginton.

Bridget, dau. of
Richard Daven-
port, Esq.; mar-
ried at St. James's,
Westminster, 8
May 1756.

Thomas Bromley,
2d son; died un-
marr.

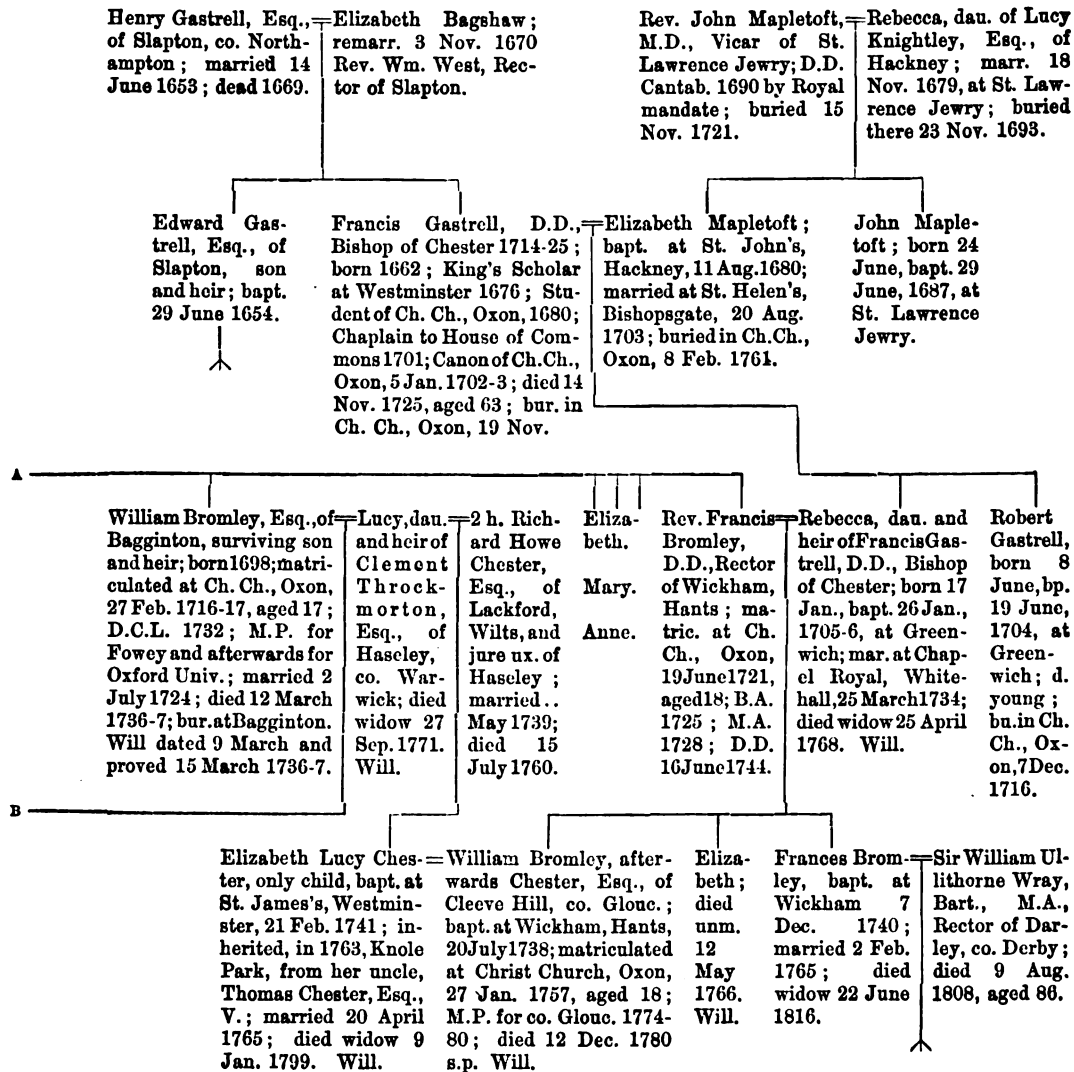
Lucy Bromley;
unm. 1771.

Bridget Bromley,
coheir; born 1757;
died unm. 1785.

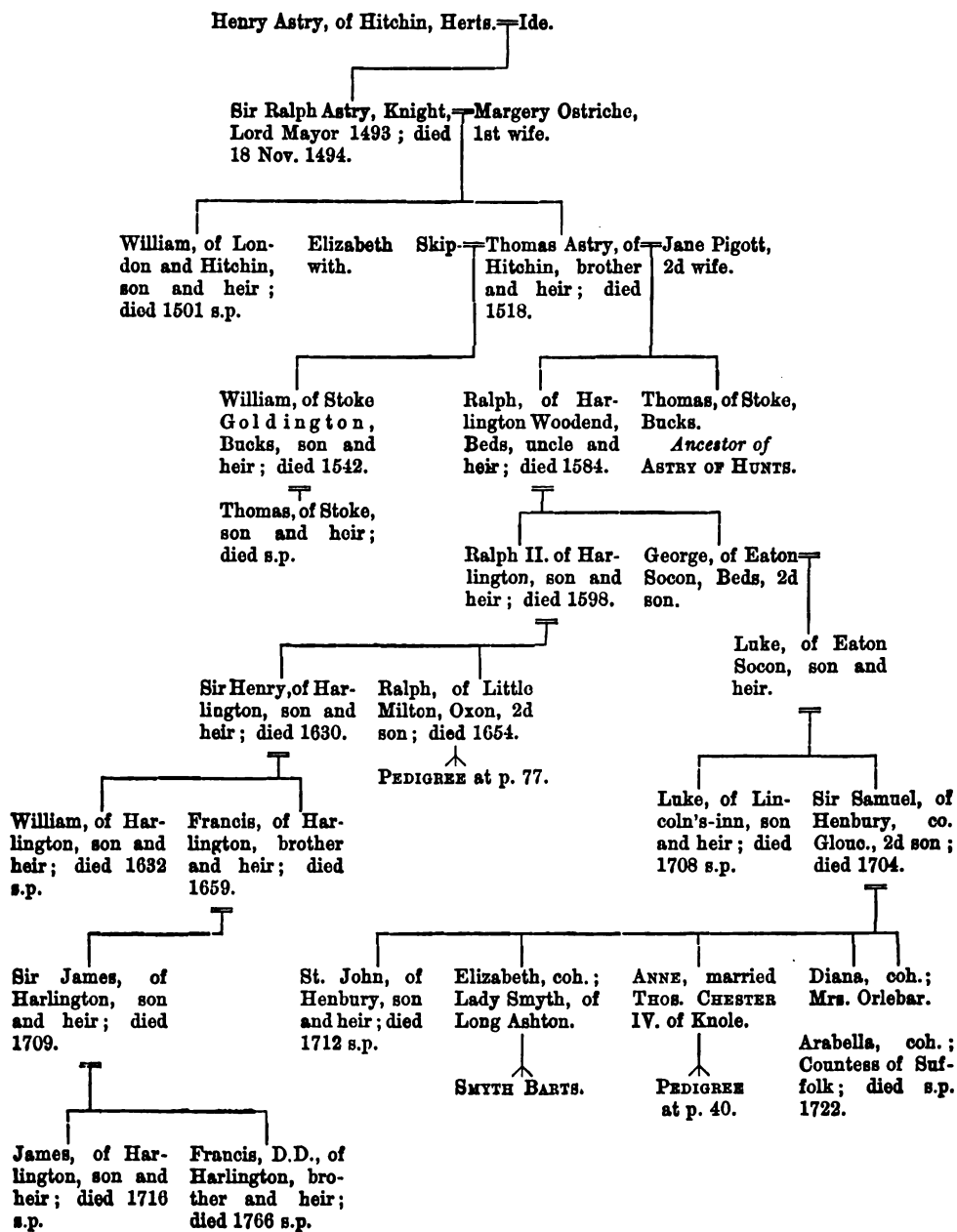
Lucy Bromley, sur- = Cromwell
viving heir of Baggin- Price, Esq.
ton; died widow 19 of Holly
Aug. 1822, aged 61; Mount.
buried at Bagginton
30 Aug. s.p.

Mary Bromley,
coheir; born 1762;
died unm. 1787.

DESCENT OF BROMLEY FROM GASTRELL AND MAPLETOFT.



SKELETON PEDIGREE OF ASTRY.

SKELETON PEDIGREE OF THE DESCENDANTS OF SIR RALPH ASTRY, KT.,
LORD MAYOR 1493.

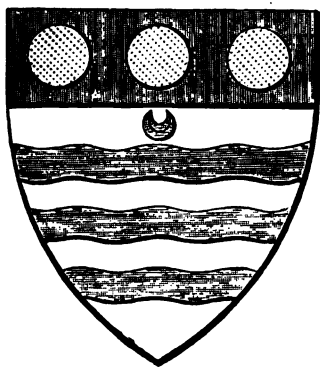
CHAPTER VI.

The ancestors of Anne Astry, wife of Thomas Chester IV. of Knole. I.-VI. The Astrys of Hitchin, London, Kent, and Bucks. VII. The Astrys of Huntingdonshire. VIII.-IX. Ralph Astry I. and Ralph Astry II. of Harlington, Woodend, Beds. X. The Astrys of Little Milton, Oxon. XI.-XVI. The Astrys of Harlington, Woodend. XVII.-XXI. The Astrys of Henbury, Gloucestershire.

I TURN aside to give some account of the ancestors of Anne Astry, the wife of Thomas Chester IV. of Knole, in order to justify the claim of her descendants to quarter the coat of arms which was granted on 12th Sept. 1486 to Ralph Astry, citizen and Fishmonger of London, afterwards Sir Ralph Astry, Kt. (51) Sir Ralph was the common ancestor of all the families of Astry, whose right to armorial bearings is recognised by the Heralds; but the genealogy of the different branches has never been critically explored, and the precise connection between them has not hitherto been accurately ascertained. The pedigrees of Astry in the Visitation of London of 1568 and of Huntingdonshire in 1613 are disfigured by demonstrable errors; and although Le Neve includes in his *Pedigrees of Knights* Sir Henry Astry of Harlington, Beds, Sir Samuel Astry of Henbury, Gloucestershire, and Sir James *Astrie*, one of the Masters in Chancery, who was knighted at Whitehall on 20th Nov. 1683, his knowledge of their genealogy was so imperfect that he remained in doubt whether Sir Samuel and Sir James were members of the same family, and it never occurred to him that Sir James was the grandson and heir of Sir Henry of Harlington. (52)

Sir Ralph Astry, the founder of the family, was a native of Hitchin in Hertfordshire, which was then a flourishing town, and one of the centres of the woollen trade. The monumental brasses still remaining in the old parish church show that Hitchin was a favourite place of residence with merchants of the Staple of Calais in the fifteenth century, and that some of them were members of the Fishmongers' Company of London. (53) Amongst them was Sir William Hampton, who was one of the twelve aldermen knighted on the field of battle by Edward IV. after the repulse of the Bastard Fauconbridge in 1470. He was Lord Mayor in 1472, and was elected M.P. for the City 1st Dec. 1477. (54) Ralph Astry was successively the apprentice, partner, and executor of Sir William Hampton; and his attachment to his old master and his wife did not cease with their lives; for he expressly directed

by his Will that the souls of Sir William Hampton and Dame Margaret, his wife, were to be prayed for, with the souls of his own father and mother, in the daily mass of requiem, which was to be celebrated for ever from the day of his decease in the Church of St. Andrew's, Hitchin, at the cost of his heirs and successors in estate. Astry was one of the most prosperous citizens of his time, and rose to the highest civic honours. The sweating sickness, which recurred at intervals during the next century with such terrible mortality, made its first appearance in England in the winter of 1484-5; and amongst the victims of the pestilence were two successive

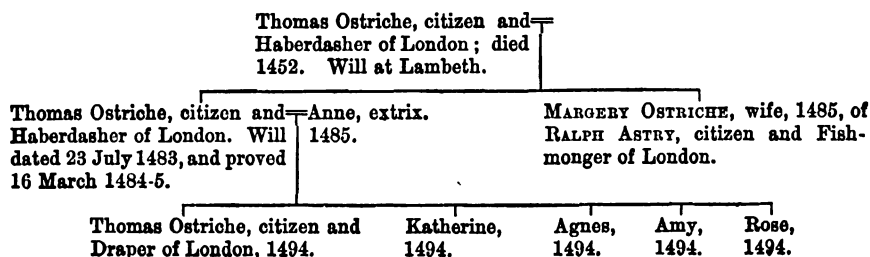


Lord Mayors, Sir Thomas Hill and Sir William Stokker, and Richard* Chester, one of the Sheriffs. (54) Astry was appointed Sheriff in Chester's place in February 1484-5, (55) and in the next year obtained a grant of Arms from Sir Thomas Holme, Kt. Clarenceux King of Arms. The grant is dated 12th Sept. 1486 (2 Henry VII.), and the Coat assigned to him was *Barry wavy of six argent and azure: on a chief gules three bezants, with a crescent for difference.* (57) He was elected Lord Mayor in 1493, and was knighted by King Henry VII.; although it was by no means the rule at this period that the Lord Mayor should receive the honour of knighthood. The year 1493 was one of the most eventful of his life; for in

the spring of this year he lost his wife, Margery, who had been married to him more than twenty years, and was the mother of his three sons. She was the daughter† of Thomas Ostriche, citizen and Haberdasher of London, and died on 10th March 1492-3. (56) She was buried in the nave of the Church of St. Martin's in the Vintry, in front of the choir-door, beside the pulpit, in a vault which thenceforth became the burial-place of the family. Six months afterwards the widower, who was then Lord Mayor elect, married Dame Margaret Revell, a rich widow in the prime of life, who was connected by birth and marriage with several leading families

* Richard was the brother of the ancestor of the Chesters of Chicheley. (55)

† PEDIGREE OF OSTRICHE OF LONDON.



of the civic aristocracy. She was the widow and executrix of Robert Revell,* who was one of the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex in 1490, and died in February 1490-1, during his term of office. (57) His marriage had been of short duration; for Dame Margaret's first husband, William Edwards, citizen and Grocer of London, only died in October 1487. His Will† is dated 1st Aug. 1487, and was proved in C.P.C. on 31st Oct. in the same year by his widow and executrix, to whom he devised all his real estate in London and in the Isle of Thanet. He was buried in the Chapel of Our Lady and St. George the Martyr, within the parish church of St. Peter's, Cornhill, and left an only son, Thomas Edwards.

His widow Margaret was the daughter of John Hill, citizen and Grocer of London, and her father was the cousin of Sir Thomas Hill,‡ who died Lord Mayor in 1485, when Astry was one of the Sheriffs. She was, like her third husband, a native of Hitchin, and brought him a large fortune, having been the executrix and residuary legatee of both her former husbands; but she received a full equivalent in the settlement which was executed on 29th Sept. 1493 in contemplation of her third marriage, whereby Ralph Astry settled upon her for life considerable estates in London, Kent, and Surrey. (59) She had issue by each of her three husbands an only son, and Henry Astry, the son of her last marriage, was born in 1494, just before his father's death; for Sir Ralph Astry died within a few days after vacating the civic chair, on 18th Nov. 1494. (59) He was buried near his first wife in the parish church of St. Martin's in the Vintry, although he was residing at the time of his death in the parish of St. James Garlickhithe, in a house which had belonged to Thomas Kent. He had been a munificent benefactor to St. Martin's in his lifetime, 'having at his own expense new roofed the church with timber, and covered it with lead, and filled in the windows with painted glass.' (56) The Church of St. Martin's was not forgotten in his Will; for he left a legacy of 5*l.* to the fabric for the repair of the leads, and 60*l.* for a suit of vestments for the parish priest. Moreover, he directed that 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* should be appropriated for the salary of a priest, who should for the next ten years after his death sing mass for his soul in Our Lady's Chapel, and should be attendant and assistant at all divine services in St. Martin's. His memory was preserved by the following inscription on a plated stone at the entrance of the choir in St. Martin's Church: (56)

* The Will of *Robert Revell*, citizen, Grocer, and alderman of London, is dated 18th Feb. 1490-1, and was proved in C.P.C. on 1st March 1490-1 by his widow and executrix. (57) He was buried in the Church of St. Mary Hill, in Billingsgate Ward, to the building of which he had been a liberal contributor in his lifetime. (57)

† *William Edwards* does not describe himself as an alderman in his Will, which makes me doubt if he was the same William Edwards, Grocer, who was Sheriff in 1457, and Lord Mayor in 1471. (54) There is no Will, however, of another William Edwards at this date.

‡ '*Sir Thomas Hill, Kt., Mayor of the City of London,*' made his cousin John Hill, Grocer, one of the executors of his Will, which is dated 22d Aug. 1485, and was proved on 28th Oct. 1485, in C.P.C. [17 Logge.] (58)

M.S.

Honorabilis viri RADULPHI ASTRI Militis nuper Majoris ac Aldermanni et Piscenarii Civitatis London; et præcarissimarum Domine MARGERIE ac MARGARETÆ uxorum ejus. Qui quidem RADULPHUS obiit 18^o die Novembris A.D. 1494. Et dicta Domina MARGARITA obiit die ac prædicta MARGERIA ab hoc seculo migravit 10^o die Martii A.D. 1492; cujus animæ propitiatur Deus.

It was found at the inquest held by the King's Escheator at Maidstone, on 12th Oct. 1495, that Sir Ralph Astry died on 18th Nov. 1494, and that his heir was his son William, who was 23 years old and upwards at the date of the inquest. 2. That Sir Ralph died seised of lands at Hitchin in Hertfordshire, which were entailed by his Will on his son William and his three younger sons successively. 3. That Sir Ralph was also seised of lands in the parish of All Hallows, in the hundred of Hoo, in Kent, which were entailed by his Will on his son Ralph, with remainder to his brothers, William, Thomas, and Henry, in succession. 4. That John Warde, Grocer and alderman of London, and John Breton, clerk, stood enfeoffed in divers houses and lands in the City of London and the county of Middlesex, and also in the manor of Bryssing,* in the parish of Langley, in Kent, and also in the manor of Gore Court;† and in lands in the parishes of Langley, Boughton-Monchelsea, Chart, Otham, Maidstone, and Thornham, in the same county of Kent; and also in lands in the parishes of Kingston, Malden, and Talworth, in Surrey, to the use of Dame Margaret Astry, the widow of Sir Ralph, for her life, and after her death to the uses of Sir Ralph Astry's Will. 5. That Sir Ralph Astry made his Will on 10th Nov. 1494, whereby the bulk of his estate, subject to the life interest of his widow, was entailed on his sons, William, Ralph, Thomas, and Henry Astry, in succession, with remainder to Nicholas Mattok, son of Nicholas Mattok, Fishmonger of London; but in case all his sons and the said Nicholas Mattok died without heirs, the executors, or such of them as should be then living, or if they were all dead, then the Wardens of the Fishmongers' Company, were to sell all the lands and tenements devised by the Will, and were to apply the proceeds in 'dedes of almes, pittie, and charite,' at their discretion. (59) Sir Ralph's Will was made on 10th Nov. 1494, the day after he ceased to be Lord Mayor; and as he makes no allusion to his illness, his death, eight days afterwards, would seem to have been sudden. It is shown in every line of his Will that he was a just, charitable, God-fearing man, full of consideration for his relations and dependents. The number of outstanding loans which he forgives is a sufficient proof of his willingness to lend a helping hand, and of his forbearance in exacting payment.

* The manor of Bryssing was parcel of the Honour of the Duchy of Lancaster, and was purchased by Ralph Astry early in the reign of Edward IV. (60)

† The mansion and manor of Gore Court, in the parish of Otham, was purchased by Ralph Astry from Sir Henry Isley, Kt. (60)

RAUF ASTRY, KNYGHT AND CITIZEN, AND FISHMONGER AND ALDERMAN OF LONDON. Will dated 10th Nov. 1594 (10 Hen. VII.).

'My bodie to be buryed before the quyre doore, in the bodie of the parish church of St. Martyn in the Vyntry of London, by the pulpit there, as the bodie of Margaret Astry, late my wife, lyeth buryed.'

My executors to pay all my debts immediately, and within four years after my death to make restitution of all which ought of right by me to be restored, 'whiche doon, all my plate, jewellis, debts, moveable goodes, and marchandise, *which God hath lent me*, are to be divided into three equal parts, whereof' Dame Margery, my wife, is to have one part, and my children who live to be 21 years old the second part. The third part to be applied as follows, viz. To the high altar of St. Martyn's in the Vyntry, for tithes and offerings forgotten or negligently withholden, in discharge of my soul, 5s. Towards the reparacion of the ledes and other werkes of the same church, £5.

My executors to find an honest priest of good conversation to synge, in the same church of St. Martyn's, in Our Lady's Chapell there, for my soul by the space of ten years. His salary to be ten marks a year, which will make £66 13s. 4d. for the ten years. The same priest to be attendant to all dyvyne services in the said church, and to help thereto, and also to wayte upon Dame Margery, my wife, at her pleasure.

To the parish church of St. Andrew, in Hitchyn, in Hertfordshire, £40, for a suete of vestments to be bought for that church by the advice of my executors. Also to Our Lady's Altar on the south side of the same church for John Edwards the priest to synge with a chalice of silver, to cost £3 6s. 8d.

To the Order of White Friars, in Hitchyn, to pray for my soul, and my friends' souls, 40s.; and I will that an obit be yearly kept in the same church for my soul, and the souls of my father and mother, and of the said John Edwards, for twenty years next after my death; 13s. 4d. to be yearly distributed at the same obit between the priest, clerks, and poor people there, which for twenty years amounts to £13 6s. 8d.

To Katryne, Agnes, Amy, and Roose, daughters of my brother Thomas Ostriche, 20s. each, with 40s. more to Katryne, Agnes, and Amy each, and 20s. more to the said Roose, and to each of their children, 6s. 8d.; and I forgive Thomas Ostriche, Draper, one-half of all the money which he owes me, 'as it appereth by his billys,' on condition that within six months after my death he secures the payment of the other half to my executors.

To Richard Harrynton, to pray for my soul, 20s. To John Benyngton, Grocer, £6 13s. 4d. To James Vergeancit, Fishmonger, 20s.

To the Friars Preachers within Ludgate of London, to the Grey Friars in London, and to the Friars Austins in London, 53s. 4d. to each of them to pray for my soul. To the White Friars in Fleet-street, in London, 40s., and to the Crowchid Friars beside the Tower of London, 13s. 4d. for the like purpose.

To every child of my cousin Elizabeth Cornyssh, 13s. 4d. To my cousin John Pever, and to his wife, 20s.; and to each of their children, 6s. 8d. To Robert Hille, my apprentice, 40s. To William Thorn, my servant, 40s. To Roper Marchmont, my servant, 5 marks; and 'I forgive him the 40s. of mine which he lost.' To Agnes Hille, my servant, 5 marks at her marriage. To my servants Agnes Talbot and Iden, 40s. each. To my cousin Hyde Thoroughgate, £4; and to her daughter, 20s. To Isabel Valett, my servant, 26s. 8d. To every child of my cousin Thomas White, 6s. 8d.; and I forgive my cousin John White all the money he shall owe me at the time of my death. To my servant Jerome Rygate, 20s. To my cousin Thomas Lee, Haberdasher, 20s. To my cousin Ide Browne, 20s.; and to each of her children, 6s. 8d. To John Pentecost and Thomas Barry, 13s. 4d. each. To Katryne Chamberleyn, 40s. To William Hayle my clerk, to the intent that he be friendly and diligent to my executors in executing the last Will of my master Sir William Hampton, and this my present Will, £20. To

the poor prisoners in Newgate, £4 ; in Ludgate, 40s. ; in the King's Bench in Southwerk, 40s. ; and in the Marchelsey in Southwerk, 20s., to pray for my soul. To every house of lepers within six miles about London, 5s. To the fabric of the parish church of St. James of Garlickhithe, London, £6 8s. 4d. To the following priests to pray for my soul, viz. to Sir John Greve, priest, 20s. ; to Sir John Belangis, late Morower Masse Priest of St. Martyn's in the Vyntry, 13s. 4d. ; to Thomas Rychmonde, priest, 20s. ; and to my cousin Master Walter Browne, bachelor of divynity, 40s. To Edmund Browne of Hitchyn, 40s. To Johane Wanell, daughter of Alice Wanell, 40 marks on her marriage-day.

'To the Wardens of the Craufte of Fishmongers in old Fish-street of London, to the honour and worship of the said fellowship, and in performance of my said master Sir William Hampton's Will, three standing gilte cupps playne, with three covers all gilte, with the arms of my said master in the botomys of the said cupps, weying altogether 117 ounces and a half, in remembrance that they shall pray for my master's soul and for mine.'

To John Lee, tailor, £10. To William Cosyn the elder, £5 ; and to his son William, £5. To Richard Hille, tailor, £30. To James Swetman and his wife, 20s. each. To William Russell, 10s. To the poor prisoners in the two countrys in London, 20s. for either countyr. To the making of Rochester Bridge fifty bales of jeane wood. To Thomas Edwards, son of my wife Dame Margery, £30 ; and to her son John Revell, £30.

For a sute of vestments to be chosen by my executors for the said church of St. Martyn's in the Vyntry, £60. To Sir John Awngill, priest, 26s. 8d. a year during his life, to be paid half yearly. To the chapel of St. Nicholas of Mynnysden beside Hitchyn, 5 marks, to be bestowed in such ornaments as my executors think convenient. To the fraternity of Our Lady and St. John at Hitchyn, 40s. To the fraternity of Our Lady in the parish church of St. Mary Wolnoth, London, 6s. 8d. To the Friars Observants of Greenwich, 40s. To William Badmore, my porter, 20s.

The residue of all my personal estate after payment of my debts, funeral, and legacies to be applied by my executors in 'finding scholars in the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, in marriage of poor young men and maidens of good name and fame, in mending of foul and feeble wayes, in redeeming poor persons out of prison, and in other works of charity, mercy, and pity for my soul as shall be thought most convenient to be done to the pleasure of Almighty God.'

My wife Dame Margery ; John Warde,* citizen and Grocer and alderman of London ; and Nicholas Mattock,† Fishmonger of London, to be my executors ; each of the said John and Nicholas having £15 for his labour.

The right worshipful man, Master John Bretton, D.D.,‡ parson of St. Peter's, Cornhill, London, to be overseer of my Will, and to have £5 for his labour and good counsel.

AS TO THE DISPOSITION OF MY MANERS, LANDES, AND TENEMENTS, as well within the City of London and suburbs of the same as within the counties of Kent, Hertford, Surrey, and Middx., and in the whiche divers persons been enfeofed to myne use, first :

I gif and bequeth alle my landes and tenements in the towne and ffeldes of Hitchyn and els

* *John Ward*, citizen and Grocer of London, was one of the Sheriffs in 1479, and was Lord Mayor of London in 1485, when Ralph Astry was Sheriff. Ward was the third Lord Mayor of this year, and succeeded Sir William Stokker, who died of the sweating sickness. (54)

† *The Mattocks* were connected with Hitchin for at least two centuries. There is a brass in Hitchin Church to the memory of *Nicholas Mattock, Merchant of the Staple of Calais, and citizen and Fishmonger of London*, who died 14 . . ; and of Elizabeth, his wife, who died 26th Sept. 1485. Their descendant, John Mattock, Esq., of Coventry, gave, by deed dated 25th July 1639, nine acres of land in Hitchin to the use of the Free School there. (51)

‡ *Doctor John Breteyn* was presented by the Corporation of London to the Rectory of St. Peter's, Cornhill, on 10th Dec. 1478, (62) and, according to his M.I. in that church, died Rector on 29th Sept. 1500. (62)

where within the county of Hertford to my sonne William Astry, and to the heires of his bodie lawfully begotten, to hold the same of the chief lordes 'of the fee by the service thereof due and of right accustomed, to this intent, and undre this forme and condition, that the same William Astry and the heires of his bodie yerely forevermore after my deceasse finde and kepe, in the parish church of Saint Andrewe of Hitchyn aforesaid, an honest prest to singe at our ladye altar on the sowth side of the same church, and there to pray for my soule and the soules of my foresaid master Sir William Hampton and Dame Margaret his wife, and for the soules of Henry Astry my fader, and Ide my moder, and for the soul of John Edwards, and for alle my frendes' soules, paying yerely to the said prest for his salarye and wage ix. marks sterling, the same preste to be attendannt at alle divine services to be saide or songe in the parish church of Hitchyn aforesaid, atte alle tymes except a lawful cause.' And yf my said sonne William Astry decease without heires of his body lawfully begotten, thenne alle the foresaid landes and tenements shall remayne unto Rauf Astry, my sonne, and to the heires of his bodie, to the intent aforesaid; remaynder to Henry Astry, my sonne, in fee tail, to the like intent; remaynder to Nicholas Mattok, son of Nicholas Mattok, citizen and Ffishmonger of London, and to the heires of his bodie lawfully begotten, to the intent aforesaid; remaynder unto myne executors aforesaide, or to suche of theym as then shall be lyving; remaynder unto the Wardeyns of the Craufte of Ffishmongers of the Citte of London thenne beyng, to the intent to selle theym and to perform my last will after the manner and forme undre written.

Item, I give and bequeth, after the death of Dame Margerie my wife, my tenement with the appurts., in the parish of Saint Jamys at Garlikhithe, late of Thomas Kent, in the whiche tenement I nowe dwell; and also my tenement in the parish of S. Martyn in the Vyntre, som tyme called the Three Tonnes; and also my messuage called Gorecourt, with the lands thereto belonging, in the townes and ffeldes of Otham, Maydestone, Thorneham, Langley, and Bearstede, in the county of Kent; and also my landes and tenements in the parish of Saint Mary Matfelon without Algate of London, late of Thomas Litley, Grocer; and also my landes and tenements in the townes and ffeldes of Maldon, Kyngston, and Talworth, in the county of Surrey, whiche late were of Roger Stede, Vyntner: to my said son William Astry in fee tail, with remainder to my said son Rauf Astry in fee tail; remainder to my said son Thomas Astry in fee tail; remainder to my said son Henry Astry in fee tail; remainder to my said executors, or such of them as shall be then living; remainder to the Wardens aforesaid, to perform my last will.

Item, I give and bequeath, after the death of the said Dame Margery my wife, my manor of Brysshing, in Kent, with the appurts., and a croft of land called Grete Rayes, and a marsh called South Marsh, and a field called South Field, and another marsh called Lucas Hame, and a croft called Long Croft, and also a tenement called Roger's tenement, in the parish of All Hallows, in the hundred of Hoo, in Kent, which formerly belonged to Thomas Pympe,* gent., to my son Rauf Astry in fee tail; remainder to my said son William Astry in fee tail; remainder to my said son Thomas Astry in fee tail; remainder to my said son Henry Astry in fee tail; remainder to my said executors or the survivor of them; remainder to the said Wardens, to perform my will.

Item, I give and bequeath all my lands and pastures in the said parish of All Hallows,† which were late of Robert Dathe, and after the death of my said wife Dame Margery my two tenements in the parish of St. Lawrence, in the Old Jewry of London, to my said son Thomas Astry in fee tail, with remainder to my said son Rauf in fee tail; remainder to my said

* *Thomas Pimpe*, the head of an ancient Kentish family, whose chief seat was Pimpe's Court in East Farleigh, died in 1474, and was buried in All Hallows Church. (63)

† This estate long continued in the possession of Thomas Astry's descendants, for it is referred to in the Will of Ralph Astry II. of Harlington, in 1598. See p. 75.

son Henry in fee tail ; remainder to my said executors ; remainder to the said Wardens, to perform my will.

Item, I give and bequeath, after the death of Agnes, late wife of Henry Nevill, Iremonger, and of my said wife Dame Margery, my tenement called the Galy, in the parish of St. Botolph beside Billingsgate of London, and also my tenement in Trinity-lane, in the parish of the Trinity the Little of London, and also my two tenements in Hogyn-lane, in the same parish, late of Rauf Mark, to my said son Henry Astry in fee tail, with remainder to my said son William ; remainder to my said son Rauf in fee tail ; remainder to my said son Thomas in fee tail ; remainder to my said executors ; remainder to the said Wardens.

But if all my said sons, and the said Nicholas Mattok, son of Nicholas Mattok, Fishmonger, die without issue of their bodies lawfully begotten, which ' God defend,' then my said executors, or the Wardens of the Craft aforesaid, shall sell all the lands and tenements bequeathed by my present Will to my said children and to the said Nicholas Mattok's son, and shall dispose of the proceeds as follows, viz.

Half the money coming from the sale of my lands in Hitchin and elsewhere in Hertfordshire is to be divided between Thomas Edwards and John Revell, the sons of my said wife Dame Margery ; and the other half of this same money, and all the proceeds arising from the sale of all the rest of my manors, lands, and tenements, is to be disposed in ' making and amendyng of high and fowle wayes abowte Hitchyn and in other places within the county of Hertford, and abowte the Citte of London ; and toward the exhibicion and bynding of poore scolers to the Universitees of Cambrygge and Oxenford ; and in marriage of poore maydens of good name and fame ; and in other dedes of almes, pitte, and charite, by the good discrecion of myne executors, or by the Wardens aforesaid, yf mine executors be not thenne lyving, to the pleasure of God and to the helth of my soule and of the soules above named.'

My executors, after the death of my said wife Dame Margery, are to sell my brewhouse called the Suyte, and the two tenements adjoining, in the parish of St. Leonard's Eastcheap of London, and are to apply the proceeds in payment of my legacies. I revoke all former Wills made by me before this 10th day of November 1494 (10 Hen. VII.), and declare this to be my only Will.

' In witness whereof I have set my seal hereunto, in the presence of the said Master John Breton ; John Lee, taylor ; John Piver, mercer ; Richard Hill, taylor ; William Hayle and George Nicholl, scryvenors, and citizens of London, witnesses by me thereto called and specially required.'

Will proved in C.P.C. 20 Dec. 1494, by Dame Margery, the widow, and Nicholas Mattok, power being reserved to the other executors. [19 Vox.]

DAME MARGARET ASTRY, the widow of Sir Ralph, died on 18th Nov. 1523, (61) after twenty-nine years of widowhood, when Sir Ralph's estates in Kent, London, and Surrey, which she held in jointure, at last reverted to his heir under the limitations of his Will. She had outlived her three stepsons, who had all died without issue except the youngest ; and his eldest son William succeeded on her death to his grandfather's entailed estates. She died rich, and her estate was divided by her Will between her two surviving sons, Thomas Edwards and Henry Astry ; for John Revell, the only son of her second marriage, had married and died without issue in her lifetime. He was buried at Otham in Kent, where a copper tablet of quaint design, with his likeness engraved on it, was fixed in the church to his memory by direction of his mother's Will. Dame Margaret's thoughts in her old

age reverted to the husband of her youth, although her last-born son was her favourite child; and she desires in her Will to be buried in the Church of St. Peter's, Cornhill, beside her first husband, William Edwards. She died on 18th Nov. 1523, and an inquest was held at Maidstone by the King's Escheator on 3d Nov. 1524, to ascertain who was the heir of the estates formerly belonging to Sir Ralph Astry, Kt., which his widow had held in jointure.

The verdict found at this inquest completes the history of the family to this date. After reciting Sir Ralph Astry's seisin in his Kentish estates, it is related that he married a wife named *Elizabeth*,* by whom he had issue three sons, William, Ralph, and Thomas Astry. After the death of his wife Elizabeth Sir Ralph married Margery Revell, widow, and by his marriage settlement, dated 29th Sept. 1493, his estates in Kent were settled on the said Margaret for life, with remainder to such persons as he should by Will appoint. He had issue by Margaret a son, Henry Astry, and made his Will at London on 10th Nov. 1594, whereby he devised his estates, after the death of his wife Margaret, to his son William Astry and the heirs of his body, with remainder to Ralph Astry, brother of William, in fee tail; remainder to Thomas Astry, brother of Ralph, in fee tail; remainder to Henry Astry, with divers remainders over. Sir Ralph Astry died a few days after the date of his Will, and afterwards his said sons, William and Ralph Astry, both died without issue. Thomas Astry, the third son of Sir Ralph, married Elizabeth Skipwith, and had issue by her a son William. The same Thomas after the death of his wife Elizabeth married Joan, daughter of John Pygott, and had issue by her John and Ralph Astry, and afterwards the said Thomas died. William Astry, son and heir of the said Thomas, on reaching the age of 18, married Isabella, daughter of Robert Pygott, gent.; and afterwards Margaret Astry, the widow of the said Sir Ralph Astry, Kt., died on 18th Nov. last past; when William Astry, the son and heir of the said Thomas, was found to be the heir of his grandfather, the said Sir Ralph Astry, Kt. The said William was 21 years old and upwards at the date of this inquest. (61)

DAME MARGERY ASTRY, WIDOWE, LATE WIFE OF SIR RAUF ASTRY, KNYGHT, AND LATE ALDERMAN OF THE CITIE OF LONDON. Will dated 12th Sept. 1523.

My body to be buried in the parish church of S. Peter, in Cornhull of London, as nygh unto the grave there where the body of William Edwards, citizen and Grocer of London while he lived, and sometyme my late husband, lieth buried as it may conveniently be doon.

To the high-altar of the parish church of Sainte James Garlikehithe of London, vis. viiid. To the werks of the body of the foresaid church, iii/i. vis. viiid. 'A good honest prest of vertuous disposicion, beyng of age of 40 yeres or more, to celebrate, synge, and say masse in the said church of Sainte Peter aforesaid, and pray for the soules of me Dame Margery Astry and of Sir Rauf Astry, Knyght, Robert Revell, Alderman, and William Edwards, Grocer, and my late husbands, and for the soules of John Revell my sonne, and for all Christen soules by the tyme

* It is certain, from Sir Ralph Astry's Will (see p. 55), that the name of his first wife was Margaret, not Elizabeth.

and space of tenne yeres next after my decease, and that the said prest shall have yerely for his wagys, salarye, and service in that behalf, viii*l*.

Cloth for black gowns to be given to my cozen Henry Lumney and his wife, my son Henry Astry and his wife, my cozen Lane and his wife, my cozen Richard Hill and his wife, Nicholas Cosyn and his wife, my sister Hill, Thomas Edwards my son, Alexander Ronghley my servant, and my cozen Agnes Gascoyn.

To Robert and Thomas Hill, sons of my brother Stevyn Hill, iv*l*., towards their 'fynding to scole.'

To my cozens Elizabeth Lane, Margarete Lumney, Emma Cosyn, and Agnes Gascoyn, v. marks each. To Luce Lowen my cousin, xls. To cozen Richard Hill's wife, xls. To my godson Robert Lane, xxs. To Sir William Hikks, prest, vis. viii*d*. To Alice Yencowe, xls.

'The preest whom I have ordeyned to synge for my soule in maner aforesaid yerely every fryday during the said 10 yeres to synge and say masse at the aulter of Scala celi in the Crossed Freres of London, or ells there where within the said citie of London the aulter of Ara Scala celi is kept. To the mendyng of all those fowle ways moost mede of mendyng and within xx. myles of London, 10 marks to be bestowed by the advise and counsell of Robert Barbo, *heremyte*^o of Jesus Chapell at Islynton.'

I remit all debts, save those owing to me by John Restall and Jane his daughter, late wife of my son John Revell.

To Sir Richard Broke, Knight and one of the King's Justices of our Sovereign Lord King Henry VIII. of his comyn Bench, and to his wife, black gowns. Henry Astry to be my sole executor, and the said Richard Broke to be overseer. The residue of my goods to be divided between my son Thomas Edwards and my son Henry Astry.

Witnesses: Alexander Ronghley, notary, Richard Brixworth, John Lane, Anthony Marshall, Thomas Balard, priest, Leonard Hopkynson.

Codicil dated 26th October 1523.

To my godson Rauf Astry, xx*l*.. To my sister Hill, late wife of my brother Stevyn Hill of London, Grocer, xls. My executor to have a 'table of coper, as large and as brode as shall be necessary,' to be set in a pillar in the church of Otham, Kent, as nigh where my son John Revell lies buried as can be; and on the same table to be engraven 'an image or picture as like unto the said John Revell as it may conveniently be doon, togider with his armys and certain scriptur to be devised by my said overseer; and thereupon it is my will that myn executor shall expende xiii*s*. iv*d*., and more yf nede require.'

To the chapel of Mynnesdon, Hitchin, *where I was born*, a chalice and paten of silver.

'I geve the best of my vestment for a prest to synge masse in a chapell of S. Thomas the Martyr called Wyndill Chappell, founded and sett within the parishe of Prescott, in countie of Lancaster, nygh Weryngton, where my servant Alexander Ronghley was born, for to pray for my soule and all Christen soules. To the parishe church of S. Peters, Cornhill, of London, a paxe of silver and gilt, garnished with perles and other stones, and also sett and garnished with synkfoyles, which is in a little spruse chest; and to the same church a myssale or masse-booke with a white cover.' To my son Thomas Edwards 'a little salt, with a cover of silver, and gilt, garnished with perles, and a grete standing cupp of silver parcels gilt, and on the knopp of the said cover a squyrell, and ix. spoones of silver with woodruffs on the ends, which salt cupp

* The highway from Islington to Highgate had been constructed in the reign of Edward III. as an act of charity, by *William Phelippe the Hermit*; but the cost exceeding his resources, he was licensed, by Royal grant, dated 6th Nov. 1364, to collect a toll from persons using the road. His successors in the Hermitage assumed the duty of collecting the toll and maintaining the highway. The last Hermit, William Forte, was collated by Bishop Stokesley in 1531; and the Hermitage formed part of the site given by Sir Roger Cholmeley in 1565 to found the Grammar School at Highgate. (64)

and spoones remayn in the said little spruse chest in the counting-house over the hall-door. To the said Thomas my sonne a signed of gold called a morys head.'

To Agnes Bronche and Margery Sloght my servants, *xxs.* each. To Agnes Stevynson my keper, *xxs.* To my chapleyn, *xxs.*

Witnesses: Richard Brixworth, John Lane, Anthony Marshall, Thomas Tym, Leonard Hopkynson, Sir Thomas Balard, prest, Alexander Ronghley, notary.

Will and Codicil proved 10th Dec. 1523 in P.C.C. by Henry Astry. [Bodefild 25.]

Sir Ralph Astry left four sons, of whom the youngest only was the son of his second wife Dame Margaret. His three sons by his first wife Margery Ostriche were:

I. WILLIAM ASTRY, his son and heir.

II. RALPH ASTRY was scarcely 13 years old when his father died, and was apprenticed to his brother William. He died unmarried at the age of 20 on 19th Sept. 1501, and was buried with his father and mother at St. Martin's in the Vintry. His monumental inscription is recorded by Stowe: (56)

RADULPHUS ASTRY generosus unus filiorum RAD. ASTRY MILITIS, quondam Majoris Civitatis London: Qui quidem RADULPHUS FILIUS in sua florida juventute ab hoc seculo migravit 19 die Septembris A.D. 1501.

RAUFF ASTRY OF LONDON, GENT. Will dated 29th July 1501.

My body to be buried in the church of S. Martin in the Vyntry, London, on the south side of the choir-door. To the high-altar of the said church, *20s.*

An honest able secular preste to sey masse and other dyvyne servyce in the said church for the weale of my soul by the space of vi. yeres, and the said preste to have every yere duringe the said terme in the name of his salary, *x. marks.*

To the church werks of All Hallowes, in the hundred of Hoo, Kent, *40s.*

To my brothers William, Henry, and Thomas Astry, *£20* each.

To John Revell and Thomas Edwards, *£10* each.

To William Harles, citizen and scrivener of London, *£5.* To his eldest son, *40s.* To his eldest daughter, *40s.* To Alice Calverley, *40s.*

The residue of my estate, after payment of my debts, to my executors, to dispose after their free wills in deeds of alms and pity.

Nicholas Mattock and my brother William Astry to be my executors, and William Milborn to be overseer of my Will.

Will proved on 3d Nov. 1501 in P.C.C. by Nicholas Mattok, the other executor, William Astry, being then dead. [3 Blamyr.]

III. THOMAS ASTRY, the ancestor of the Astrys of Bedfordshire.

Sir Ralph Astry's son by his second wife, Dame Margaret,

IV. HENRY ASTRY was born in 1494, during his father's mayoralty, and was therefore an infant at the time of his father's death. He was the only one of the four brothers who lived to enjoy the reversionary estate bequeathed to them by Sir Ralph's Will after the death of Dame Margaret. Moreover he was amply provided for by his mother's Will, which he proved as her executor on 10th Dec. 1523. He was married at the time of his mother's death; but I have found no further notice of him, except that he died without issue. (66)

II.

WILLIAM ASTRY, the son and heir of Sir Ralph by his first wife Margery, was found at the inquest held after his father's death, on 12th Oct. 1495, to be then 23 years old and upwards; (59) he was therefore several years older than his brothers Ralph and Thomas; for Ralph was still under age when he died in Sept. 1501. William was, like his father, free of the Fishmongers of London, and came into possession on his father's death of the family estates in Hertfordshire. He was also by his father's Will the heir-expectant of the bulk of Sir Ralph's estates in London, Kent, and Surrey, which were settled on Dame Margaret for her life. But this reversionary bequest never took effect; for William died without issue 22 years before his stepmother. He married a wife named Elizabeth, of whom nothing is known except that she survived him and proved his Will on 12th April 1502. He had then, however, been dead six months; for his Will is dated 14th Oct. 1501, and it is recited in the probate of Ralph Astry's Will that William was dead on 3d Nov. 1501, when Ralph's Will was proved by his surviving executor. William therefore died within a few weeks after his brother Ralph, and was buried near his father in the Church of St. Martin's in the Vintry.

WILLIAM ASTRI, CITIZEN AND FFISHMONGER OF LONDON.

Will dated 14th Oct. 1501.

'I bequeth my soule to the Holy Trinite, three Persons and oon God, to oure Blessed Ladye Saint Marye, and to alle the holy company of hevin. Also I bequeth alle my evill dedys to the develis of hell whennes they cam fro.'

To the high-altar of S. Martyn's in the Vyntre, 10s.; and my body to be buried in the said church, 'as nye my flader Sir Rauf Astry as can be.'

To my wife Elizabeth 100 marks and all my plate, with a pair of round salts and 12 spoons with acorns, that was late my brother Rauf Astry's. I owe the said Rauf, as it appeareth in his indentures, £56, abate thereof £20 which he bequeathed me, and £5 by reason of executorship. Item, 'for suche money as I have layde owte for him more than I fonde of his in his caaket, as well a little before he sickened, in his sickness, and for his burying, with his dinner and other costs, as at his moneth minde, alle appeareth by my books, with the given reckoning, and what I found of his in gold and grots and pences, it appeareth by the rekenyng of his indentures.'

To my said wife all my household stuff, with all those my gounes, doublet, and jackett, except my blew furred with blak cony, which I give to my brother Thomas Astry, and also £5 when he comes to his lawful age. 'And yf he dye or it come to him, it is to be bestowed for the soules of William, Rauf, and Thomas Astry.'

Also to my brother Henry, £5 when he comes to age. To each of my prentices and men servants, viz. John Holmes, Richard Hilsom, and Edmond Harker, one mark.

To the high-altar of our Lady's Church at Hitchin, 40s.

To the high-altar of S. James' Church in Garlyckhithe, 20s. To Sir John, my prest, of Hitchin, towards his exhibicion, iiij. nobles. To the v. orders of ffriers, v. nobles.

Elizabeth Astry my wife to be my executrix; and William Mylbourn, now being Chamberlaine of London, to be overseer of my Will, and I give him my great ring with my arms.

Will proved 12th April 1502 in P.C.C. by Elizabeth, relict and executrix. [14 Blamyr.]

It is evident from the finding of the inquest, which was held in 1524, after Dame Margaret Astry's death, (61) and from the succession of Sir Ralph Astry's estates, that William Astry died without issue. It is difficult, therefore, to understand how it came to pass that the Heralds recorded in the Visitation of London of 1568 the fictitious pedigree printed below : (65)

ARMS : Barry wavy of six argent and azure, on a chief gules three bezants, a crescent for difference.

SR. RAFF ASTRY, KNIGHT, married to his first wife Margery, daughter of and by her had no issue ; and to his second wife he married Margaret, daughter of Hill, and had issue William his eldest son, Raff second son.

WILLM. ASTRY, son and heir of Sir Raff Astry, Knight, married Isabell, daughter of Pigott of Bechington, in the county of Bucks, and had issue Thomas his eldest son, Francis second son, Elizabeth, married to Wm. Bugby of Hunts.

FRANCIS ASTRY of London, gent., second son of William Astry, married Elizabeth, daughter of Oliver Smith of London.

III.

THOMAS ASTRY, the third son of Sir Ralph by his first wife Margery Osteriche, was not yet 12 years old when his father died in 1494 ; for his elder brother Ralph was still under age at the time of his death in Sept. 1501. Thomas became the head of the family on the death of his brother William in Oct. 1501, and succeeded to the estates at Hitchin in Hertfordshire and at All Hallows in the hundred of Hoo in Kent, which had been devised by Sir Ralph Astry to his sons William and Ralph respectively in strict settlement. He married in the next year Elizabeth, daughter of William Skipwith, of Northamstead, Herts, (66) by whom he had issue, WILLIAM ASTRY, his son and heir, born in 1503. (61) Thomas married secondly Jane, daughter of John Piggott, gent., of Beachampton, Bucks, by whom he had three sons and a daughter (*see* p. 67). Thomas Astry was a rich man, although he never lived to enjoy the bulk of his father's estate, and he increased his patrimony by purchases in the counties of Buckingham, Oxford, and Northampton. He died in Oct. 1518, at the age of 36, in the lifetime of his stepmother, Dame Margaret, and was buried at St. Martin's in the Vintry, between his father and his brother Ralph.

THOMAS ASTRY OF HITCHIN, IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD, GENT.

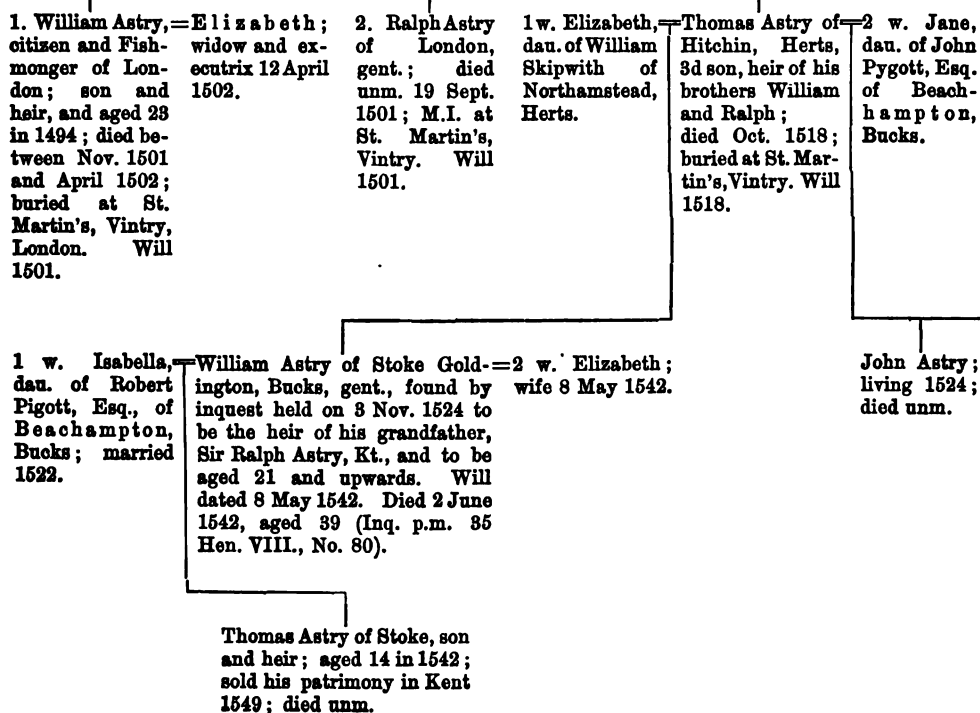
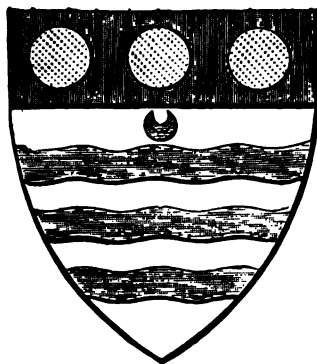
Will dated 2d Oct. 1518.

To be buried in the parish church of S. Martin in the Vintre, London, between my father and my brother Rauf Astrye, who there lie buried.

To the high-altar of the parish church of Hitchin, 6s. 8d.

To Johane my wife all my goods and chattels in the counties of Bucks, Oxon, Herts, and Northampton, to have and use for herself and children. But she is in no way to meddle with the issues of my lands in Hitchin, Wymeley, and Langley, which were my father Sir Rauf Astrye's, Knight, and now remain to my son William Astrye 'towards his fynding.'

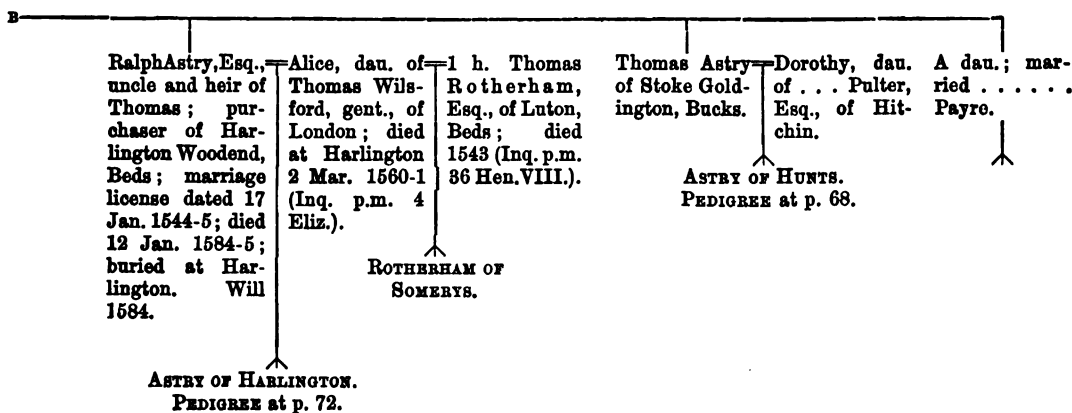
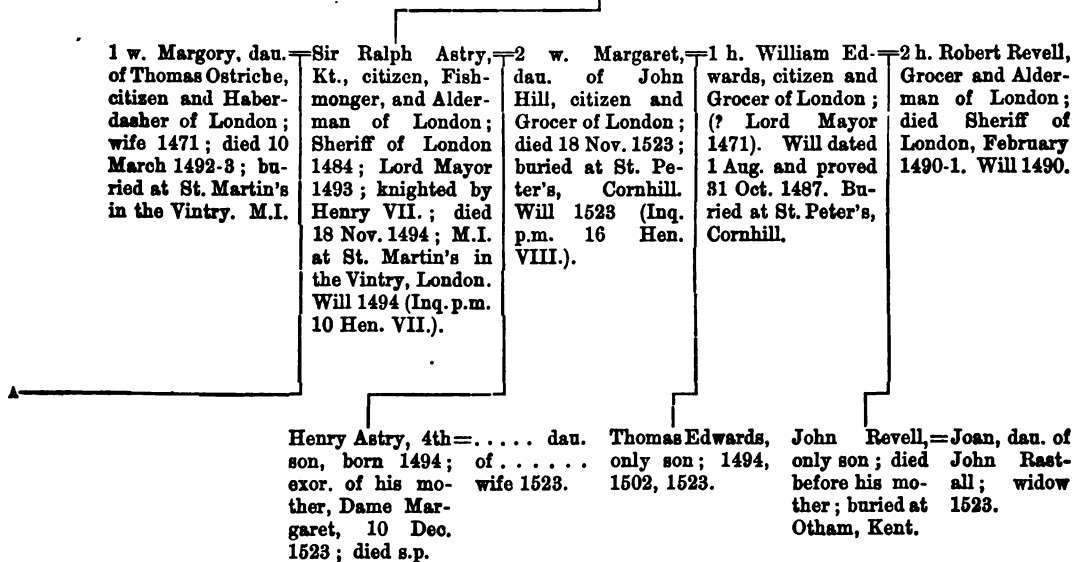
All monies due to me of lands in Kent to Dame Margery Astry my mother-in-lawe, and Henry Astrye my brother, and Henry Wyncote, and they are to see therewith to my burying, and to pay the overplus to my son William.



PEDIGREE OF ASTRY OF HERTS, LONDON, AND BUCKS.

ARMS: Barry wavy of six argent and azure; on a chief gules three bezants; a crescent for difference.

Henry Astry of Hitchin, Herts. = Ide, daughter of



My wife to enjoy all my copyholds in Hitchin, which I bought of Master Sturghion, for her life, with remainder to the heirs between us begotten; with remainder to my son William Astrye and his heirs; with remainder to my brother Henry Astrye and his heirs.

My said wife Jane to be my executrix; and Dame Margery Astrye, Henry Astrye, and Henry Wyncote to be overseers of my Will.

Witnesses: Thomas Edwards, Henry Astrye, Henry Wyncote, Master John Donne,* parish priest of S. James at Garlyckhithe of London.

Will proved 21st October 1518 in P.C.C. by Johane, relict and executrix. [10 Ayloffe.]

IV.

WILLIAM ASTRY, the son and heir of Thomas by his first wife, Elizabeth Skipwith, was born in 1504, and was therefore 14 years old when his father died. (61) He married at the age of 18 Isabella, daughter of Robert Pigott, gent., of Beachampton, Bucks, (61) who was the niece of his stepmother; (69) and it was found at the inquest, which was held on 3d Nov. 1525, after the death of Dame Margaret Astry, that William Astry, who was then 21 years and upwards, was at the time of Dame Margaret's death the heir of his grandfather Sir Ralph Astry, and that he was entitled to the estates which Dame Margaret held for life under her marriage settlement, and which had been entailed by Sir Ralph's Will on his sons successively in strict settlement. (61) William Astry lived at Stoke Goldington in Buckinghamshire, where he died on 2d June 1542, at the age of 38. (70) His Will is dated 8th May 1542, and his executors were his eldest† surviving son Thomas and his second wife Elizabeth, whom he had married after the death of Isabella Pigott, the mother of his heir. (71) It was found at the inquest held after his death at Maidstone on 22d May 1543, that William Astry died seised of (amongst other estates) the manors of Bryssing and Gore Court in Kent, which were entailed by Sir Ralph Astry's Will,‡ and that his heir was his son Thomas, who was 14 years old and upwards on the day of his father's death. (70)

V.

THOMAS ASTRY of Stoke Goldington, the son and heir of William by Isabella Pigott, was born in 1528; (71) and on attaining his majority, in 1549, sold the manors of Bryssing and Gore Court, and the rest of his patrimony in Kent, to Walter Hendley, Esq. (63) I have found no further traces of him, but the Heralds are agreed that he died without issue, although the date of his death is unknown; (66) (67) and there are some indications that a remnant of the family estates passed to his father's half-brothers. I should like, however, to have found direct positive

* *John Donne* was not the Rector of St. James's, Garlickhithe, at this date; for Christopher Leynam was presented to that Rectory by the Abbot of Westminster on 12th Dec. 1514, and he continued Rector until 15th July 1531, when he resigned his preferment. (68)

† The question suggests itself whether William was not also the father of Francis and Elizabeth, mentioned in the Visitation of London of 1568. (65) See p. 57.

‡ See p. 63.

evidence that Thomas Astry the son of William was not the same person as Thomas the father of Edward Astry of Stoke Goldington, who died in 1586, and of Thomas Astry of Somersham in Huntingdonshire, who entered his pedigree at the Visitation of that county in 1613. (72)

It is certain that Edward of Stoke Goldington and his brothers were descended from Thomas Astry of Hitchin ; but if we accept the positive statement of his brother Thomas in the pedigree verified by his signature, their father, Thomas Astry, was a younger son of Thomas of Hitchin by his second wife, Joan Pigott, (72) although the inquest of 1524 gives them only two sons, JOHN and RALPH. (61) Thomas of Hitchin had been dead six years when the inquest was held, and it is incredible that the names of his sons were not known to their brother William, who was the heir in 1524, and to their uncle Henry Astry, who was his mother's executor ; it must therefore be assumed that the youngest son, Thomas, was ignored by the jurors on account of the remoteness of his interest in the succession to the estates, when he had three brothers standing before him in the entail, the eldest of whom was married and had children.

VI.

Joan Astry, the widow of Thomas of Hitchin, proved her husband's Will on 21st Oct. 1518, and survived him many years ; for she died after her son Ralph had established himself at Woodend, in the parish of Harlington in Bedfordshire, and was buried in Harlington church. She had issue three sons and A DAUGHTER, who married Payre, and was the mother of Ralph Payre, mentioned in his uncle Ralph Astry's Will. Her three sons were :

I. JOHN ASTRY was living in 1524, and died without issue before his mother.

II. RALPH ASTRY eventually succeeded his nephew as head of the family, and was the ancestor of the Astrys of Harlington.

III. THOMAS ASTRY was of Stoke Goldington, in succession (I presume) to his nephew, and had issue three sons by his wife Dorothy, who is described by her son Thomas as the daughter of Edward Pulter, Esq., of Hitchin. (72) It is certain, however, that Edward Pulter, who died in 1573, and was the first Edward of his family, was not the father of Dorothy Astry, for his only daughter's name was Alice, and she married, in 1572, Henry Boteler of Hatfield Woodhall, Herts. Edward Pulter's Will, which is dated 3d June 1572, and was proved on 26th Jan. 1573-4 by his widow Julian, contains a legacy of 10*l.* to 'Edward Astry, my servant and kinsman,' which proves that the testator was related to the Astrys ; but it is highly unsatisfactory to find that Thomas Astry did not know the name of his mother's father. His three sons by Dorothy Pulter were,

1. EDWARD ASTRY of Stoke Goldington was, as we have seen, in 1572, in the employment of his kinsman, Edward Pulter, and is mentioned, with his brothers William and Thomas, in 1584, in the Will of their uncle Ralph Astry of Harling-

ton, who also describes them as 'my kinsmen.' Edward died unmarried in 1586, when his brother Thomas was his heir and executor.

EDWARD ASTRY OF STOKE GOLDINGTON, BUCKS, GENT.

Will dated 28th Nov. 28 Eliz. (1585).

All my goods, chattels, plate, and jewels whatsoever, moveable and immoveable, to my brother Thomas Astry, whom I make my sole executor.

Witnesses : Clement^e Piggott, Thomas Nixon, Thomas Astrye.

Will proved 18th Nov. 1586 in C.P.C. [63 Windsor.]

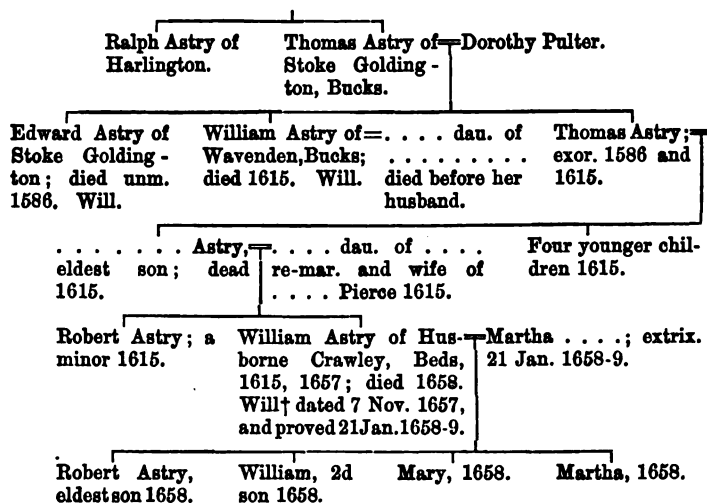
2. WILLIAM ASTRY of Wavenden, Bucks, and of Staple Inn, London, had a house at Dunstable, devised to him by his uncle Ralph Astry of Harlington in 1584. He married the maternal aunt of Robert Saunders, who died before him without issue, and was buried at Houghton Conquest, Beds, on 8th Nov. 1615. (84)

His Will is dated 20th Oct. 1615, and was proved by his brother Thomas Astry on 25th Nov. in the same year.

He gives legacies to his cousins John and Lora Markham (the grandchildren of Ralph Astry of Harlington), also 100*l.* to his grandnephew Robert Astry, and 40*l.* to Robert's brother William, the sons of the deceased eldest son of the testator's brother, to be paid during the boys' minority to their father-in-law; and he devises to William Astry his tenement in Husborn Crawley, Beds, which Thomas Savage and his wife Mary had for their lives. He also gave 200*l.* to the four younger children of his brother Thomas, who was his sole executor.

PEDIGREE OF ASTRY

(According to William Astry's Will).



* Clement Pigott, barrister-at-law, was the ninth son of Thomas Pigott, Esq., of Beachampton, the grand-uncle of the testator. (69)

† See Wills of Astry in Appendix II. at p. 112.

It is absolutely impossible to reconcile the statements of this Will with the pedigree in the Visitation of Hunts of 1613, in which Thomas asserts that he had *eight* children then living, and that his son and heir-apparent, Thomas, was 8 years old. In this conflict of authorities I have reduced William's statements to a tabular form, that they may be more conveniently compared with the pedigree recorded by his brother, and stated in my next section.

3. THOMAS ASTRY, the ancestor of the Astrys of Somersham in Huntingdonshire.

VII.

3. THOMAS ASTRY, the youngest son of Thomas of Stoke Goldington by Dorothy Pulter, was the heir and executor of his brother Edward in 1586, and of his brother William in 1615. According to William's Will the eldest son of Thomas was dead in 1615, when his two sons Robert and William were living with their mother and stepfather; and, according to the same authority, Thomas had four younger children. But his own account of himself is very different in the pedigree which he entered at the Visitation of Huntingdonshire in 1613, and which is verified by his signature. (72) He describes himself as of Somersham, Hunts, and says that he had issue by his wife Jane, daughter of John Brett of that place, nine children, viz.

1. THOMAS ASTRY, son and heir, *aged 8 years and upwards* in 1613.

2. JOAN. 3. RALPH, died s.p. before 1613.

4. JOHN ASTRY, of whom I am able to add the following particulars. He had a fair estate at Somersham, and died there in 1636, leaving issue by his wife Anne three sons: 1. JOHN, 2. WILLIAM, 3. THOMAS, who were all under age at the time of their father's death. His Will is dated 28th July 1636, and was proved by his widow at Peterborough on 29th Oct. in the same year. He desires to be buried at Somersham, and devises his freeholds there to his son John, and his copyholds to his sons William and Thomas, 'according to the custom of the manor.' (73)

5. ELIZABETH, wife of Henry Chapman of London.

6. MARY ASTRY, married, at St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, London, on 25th Nov. 1613, Thomas Seaborne, yeoman, of Bluntsham, Hunts. (74)

7. DOROTHY. 8. FRANCES. 9. JANE.

THOMAS ASTRY, the son and heir of Thomas of Somersham by Jane Brett, was (I presume) the same person as Thomas Astry, yeoman, of Toseland, Hunts, who died intestate in 1632, and whose widow Martha administered to his estate on 3d Jan. 1632-3. He left two children, Richard and Elizabeth, who were both very young at the time of their father's death, and their mother Martha, who died at the end of 1655, was possessed of lands in Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, and Huntingdonshire.

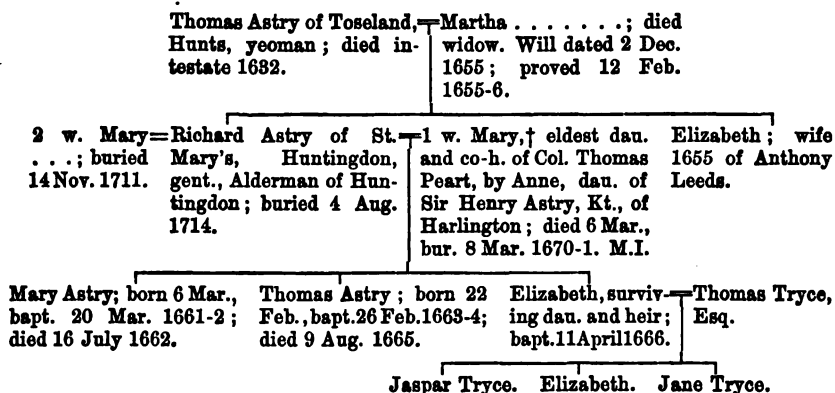
MARTHA ASTRY OF TOSELAND, HUNTS, WIDOW. Will dated 2d Dec. 1655.

To my son Richard Astry all my lands and tenements in Steeple Morden and Gilden Morden, Cambs; Ashwell, Herts; and Brampton, Hunts. To my daughter Elizabeth, wife of Anthony Leeds, my lands and tenements in Toseland, and all my household stuff. To my sister Waller and my cousins Story and his wife, 30s. each for a ring. To my nephew Thomas Story and my nieces Dorothy Hayes and Ann Story, 20s. each. To Mr. James Astry^o of Great St. Helen's, London, and his wife, a piece of gold worth 22s. each.

The residue to be equally divided between my sons Richard Astry and Anthony Leeds, whom I make my executors.

Will proved 12th Feb. 1655-6 in C.P.C. [50 Berkley.]

PEDIGREE OF ASTRY OF HUNTINGDON.



Registers not specified are from St. Mary's, Huntingdon. (74)

VIII.

Ralph Astry, the second son of Thomas Astry of Hitchin by his second wife, Joan Pigott, was a boy of tender years when his father died in 1518. He was well provided for by his father's marriage settlement, and eventually succeeded to his grandfather Sir Ralph Astry's entailed estates in the hundred of Hoo in Kent, which raises a strong presumption that, on the death of his nephew, he became the head of the family. He established himself in Bedfordshire by purchasing the estate at Woodend in the parish of Harlington, which was for many generations the principal seat of his descendants. He was connected with Bedfordshire by his marriage, for he married by license,† dated 17th Jan. 1544-5, Alice Rotherham, (74)

* These legacies to James Astry and his wife suggest the question whether the testatrix had not apprenticed her son Richard to his kinsman, and whether he is not the Richard Astry, gent., who married, at St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, on 9th Oct. 1656, Elizabeth Stebbins, spinster. (74) If this be so, Mary Peart was Richard's second wife.

† See p. 78.

‡ *Marriage License from the Faculty Office*: (25)
1544-5, Jan. 17. Ralph Astrye had license to marry Alice Rotheram, of the diocese of Lincoln, widow.

the well-jointed widow of Thomas Rotherham, Esq., of Luton, the grand-nephew and heir of Archbishop Rotherham. She was the daughter of Thomas Wilsford, gent., of London, of a Worcestershire family, and had issue by her first marriage, 1. Thomas Rotherham, son and heir of his father, who died under age in her lifetime. 2. George Rotherham, the ancestor of the Rotherhams of Somerys in Bedfordshire; and 3. Jane, wife of Humphrey Bury, Esq., of Toddington, Beds. (75) She had issue by her second marriage two sons and six daughters, and died at Harlington Woodend on 2d March 1560-1. (76) It was found at the inquest held at Ampthill on 1st Dec. 1561 that her widower Ralph Astry was then still living, and that her heir was her son George Rotherham, who was 20 years of age on the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle (24th Feb.) last past. (76) Ralph Astry lived to a great age, and died on 12th Jan. 1584-5, (51) when he was buried at Harlington.

RAPHE ASTRY THE ELDER OF HARLINGTON, BEDS, ESQ.

Will dated 25th August 1584.

To be buried in Harlington parish church where my wife and mother lie. To George Astry my son, and his heirs male, my lands and tenements in Caddington, Luton, Dunstable, and Kensworth, in Beds and Herts, which I purchased; with remainder to Raphe Astry my son and his heirs male; remainder to my own right heirs.

To William Astry^{*} my kinsman the tenement in Dunstable which I purchased of John Carter of Dunstable.

To Raphe Astry, second son of Raphe Astry my son, and to his heirs male, all my lands and tenements in Peggesdon, in the parish of Shitlington.

To Raphe Astry, my son and heir-apparent, my lands and tenements in Harlington, being parcell of the manor of Blundells, with remainder to his son Henrie Astry, with remainder to Henrie's brother Raphe Astry; and for default of male issue of my son Raphe, to my son George Astry and his heirs male.

To my said son Raphe and his heirs my lands in Harlington, Westonyng, Toddington, Tyngrith, Maulden, Dunstable, Flitton, Silso, Gravenhurst, and Pulloxhill, Beds, and all those in Allhallowes in the hundred of Howe, Kent.

To Anne Astry my youngest daughter, unmarried, 600 marks. To my son George Astry, £400, and a cupp with cover, silver and gilt, a gold broche, one of my best rings, a salt-seller with cover, and twelve spoons. To each of my daughters, a ring or a tablet. To my two daughters-in-law Elizabeth Astry and Lore Astry, 20s. each for a ring with a death's head. To Henrie Astry my godson, £20 at his age of 24. To Raphe Astry his brother, 100 marks at his age of 24. To Anne and Mary Astry, daughters of my son Raphe, £100 each at their ages of 20, or on their days of marriage. To the child or children of my son George which he shall have, 100 marks.

To the children of my daughter Frances, the wife of Peter Malory, and to the children of my daughter Alice, wife of John Markham, £10 each at 24 or marriage.

To my kinsman Raphe Payre, £5; and to his son Raphe, 20s. To my kinsman George Payre, £5. To my sons Raphe and George Astry all my household goods in equal shares, and my son Raphe to be my executor. But if my said son Raphe shall not prove my Will within one halfe year after my decease, then I make my son George executor thereof.

^{*} William Astry of Staple Inn was the son of the testator's brother Thomas, of Stoke Goldington, who was also the father of Thomas and Edward Astry, the last-named legatees in this Will. See pp. 67-8.

PEDIGREE OF ASTRY OF HARLINGTON WOODEND.

PEDIGREE OF ASTRY OF HARLINGTON WOODEND.

Ralph Astry, Esq. (son of Thomas Astry of Hitchin by Joan Pigott. See PEDIGREE at p. 65). Purchaser of Harlington Woodend, Beds; died 12 Jan. 1584-5; buried at Harlington. Will 1584.

Alice, widow of Thomas Rotherham, Esq., of Luton, Beds, and dau. of Thomas Wilsford, gent., of London; died 2 March 1560-1 (Inq. p.m. 4 Eliz.); buried at Harlington.

Ralph Astry II., Esq., of Harlington Woodend, son and heir; died at Everton, Beds, 7 Aug. 1598; buried at Harlington. Will 1598. (Inq. p.m. 41 Eliz. No. 31.)

Elizabeth, dau. of Peter Grey, Esq., of Rougemont, Beds; wife 1575; widow 1599, 1680.

Mary Astry; married first Francis Esq., of Gravenhurst, Beds, 2d Markham, Esq.; died s.p. before husb.; died 1606. 1584.

Benjamin Pigott, Frances Astry; married Peter Mallory, Esq., of Shelton, Beds.

Sir Henry Astry, Kt., of Harlington Woodend, son and heir; born 24 Feb. 1576-7; knighted 23 July 1627; died 25 April 1630. Will 1630. (Inq. p.m. 6 Chas. I.)

Mary, dau. of William St. John, Esq.; married at Harlington 1 June 1611; executrix 6 Dec. 1654. Will 1630; widow 16 May 1635.

Ralph Astry, gent., of Little Milton, Oxon.; buried at Milton 6 Dec. 1654. Will 1650.

Anne Astry; married . . . Threelle, gent.; died widow s.p. Admon. granted to her brother Henry 31 Jan. 1621-2.

Mary; living 1584; died unm. before her father.

PEDIGREE at p. 77.

William Astry, Esq., of Harlington Woodend, son and heir; aged 15 in 1630; died a minor and the King's ward and unm. 24 Nov. 1631. (Inq. p.m. 8 Charles I.)

Francis Astry, Esq., of Harlington Woodend, brother and heir; born . . Nov. 1617; the King's ward in 1634; buried at Harlington 19 May 1659. Will 1659.

Dorothy, dau. of Sir Fleetwood Dormer, Kt., of Lee Grange, Quainton, Bucks; extrix. 1659; died widow; buried at Harlington 5 May 1664. Will 1663.

Henry Astry, 3d son; M.A. Cantab.; Rector of Bally Kelly in Derry; dead 1648.

Sir James Astry, Kt., of Harlington Woodend, son and heir; born 14 Oct., bapt. 16 Oct. 1653, at Harlington; matriculated at B.N.C., Oxon, 14 July 1671; B.C.L. 1677; Master in Chancery 1683-94; knighted 20 Nov. 1683; buried at Harlington 15 Nov. 1709.

Anne, dau. of Sir Thomas Penyston, Bart., of Cornwell, Oxon; born 1653; married at Cornwell, 9 Oct. 1673.

Mary; married at Harlington 22 Sept. 1659, . . . Rawlins, Esq.

Dormer Astry, bapt. at Harlington 27 Aug. 1657; buried there 20 Dec. 1659.

Dorothy; unm. 1663.

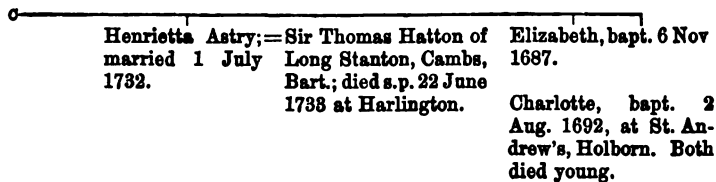
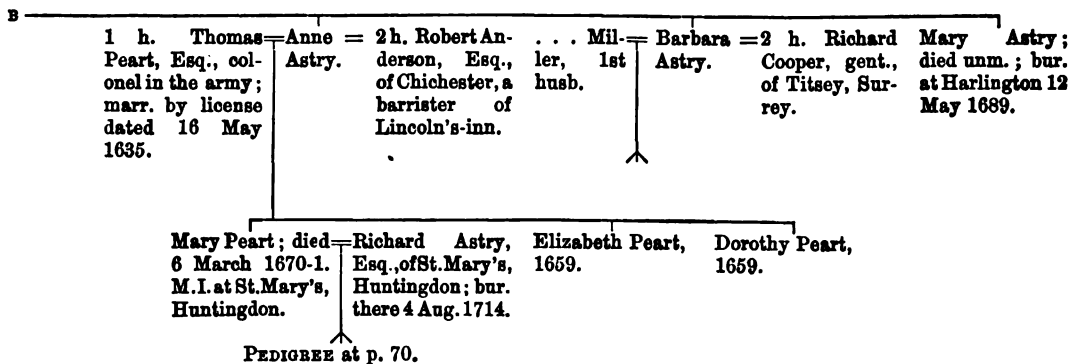
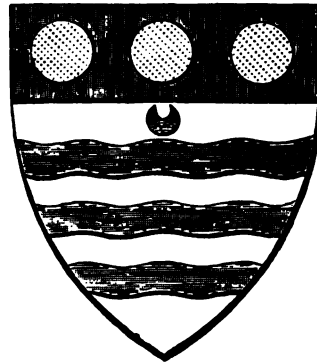
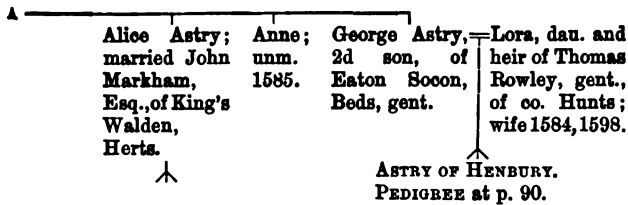
William Astry; aged 14 in 1648.

James Astry, Esq., of Harlington Woodend, son and heir; born 1675; matriculated at B.N.C., Oxon, 25 Aug. 1691; Secretary of the Comptrollers of the Army Accounts 1712; died unm. aged 41; buried 19 Oct. 1716 at Harlington. M.I.

Rev. Francis Astry, D.D., of Harlington Woodend, brother and heir; born 1677; matriculated at B.N.C., Oxon, 28 May 1692; Fellow of Merton Coll. and M.A. 1702; treasurer of St. Paul's 30 Sept. 1715; Preben. of St. Paul's 1718; died s.p. 30 Oct. 1766. Will 1761.

Susan, dau. of . . . Walklate.

Penyston Astry; bapt. at Harlington 9 July 1680; died unm. 1742.



My friends George^{*} Rotherham, Valentyne[†] Piggott, Esqs., Benjamin[‡] Piggott, Peter[§] Malory, John[¶] Markham, Richard[§] Graye, and George Wingate, gents., to be overseers.

MEMORANDUM. The limitation of the above-named Raphe's sole executorship was altered by the consent of the above-named Raphe Astry the elder, in the presence of George Wyngate, 20 Dec. 1584, and of Humfry Burgis.

'Also my executor shall cause to be erected and sett upp one tombe within the church of Harlington, as also my coate armor in some decent and convenient place in the church, and that there maie be remembered my selfe with my wief, my two sonnes and sixe daughters, in the workmanshipp of the same tombe. And my desyre is that whereas my sonne Raphe hath a copie holde house wherein he nowe dwelleth, and also is to have the reversion of the house where I nowe dwell, that he would suffer his brother George to have dwelling in the one of them, the rent whereof to be ordered by my supervisors.'

To my brother-in-law William Wellsford, gent., 20s. To my kinsman Thomas Astry, son of Thomas Astry, 20s. To my kinsman Edward Astry, 20s.

Witnesses: Geo. Astry, Ric. Gray, Peter Malory.

Will proved 5th Feb. 1584 in P.C.C. by Philip Harrison, public notary, acting for Raphe Astry, son and executor of the deceased. [9 Brudenell.]

Ralph Astry the elder of Harlington had issue by his wife Alice two sons and six daughters; but two of his daughters died unmarried in his lifetime, and their names are lost. His surviving children were:

I. RALPH ASTRY, his son and heir.

II. GEORGE ASTRY, the ancestor of Sir Samuel Astry, Kt., of Henbury in Gloucestershire, whose daughter Anne married Thomas Chester IV. of Knole.

III. MARY ASTRY married, first, Francis Markham, Esq., and secondly, Benjamin Pigott, Esq., of Gravenhurst, Beds, who died in 1606, aged 55, and has a noble monument at Gravenhurst. (77) Mary was his first wife, and was the mother of an only son, who died in infancy. (77) She died before her father.

IV. FRANCES ASTRY married Peter Mallory, Esq., of Shelton, Beds, and had issue, of whom RALPH and JOAN were born in their grandfather's lifetime. (67)

V. ALICE ASTRY married John Markham, Esq., of King's Walden, Herts, and had issue born in her father's lifetime: 1. JOHN MARKHAM, son and heir. 2. JANE. 3. FRANCES. 4. LORA. (67)

VI. ANNE ASTRY was still unmarried in 1585, and had a portion of 600 marks under her father's Will.

IX.

RALPH ASTRY II. of Harlington, son and heir of Ralph Astry the elder by his wife Alice, married in his father's lifetime Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Grey, Esq.,

^{*} George Rotherham of Somerys was the testator's stepson.

[†] Valentine Pigott, Esq., of Loughton, Bucks, and a barrister of the Middle Temple, was grand-nephew of the testator's mother, Joan Pigott, of Beachampton. (69)

[‡] Benjamin Pigott of Gravenhurst, Beds; Peter Malory of Shelton, Beds; and John Markham married daughters of the testator.

[§] Richard Gray of Rougemont, Beds, was the brother of the wife of the testator's son and heir Ralph Astry II.

of Rougemont, Beds, and had issue four children, who were all born in their grandfather's lifetime. He inherited on his father's death in 1585 the mansion house at Harlington Woodend; but he never cared to remove from the copyhold house at Everton, on the borders of Huntingdonshire, in which he and his wife had lived from the time of their marriage. He died at Everton on 7th Aug. 1598, (82) and was buried at Harlington. It was found at the inquest held at Ampthill by the King's Escheator, on 7th Dec. 1599, that his heir was his son Henry, who was 21 years and 5 months old at the time of his father's death. (79)

RAPHE ASTREY OF HARLINGTON, BEDS, ESQ. Will dated 1st Nov. 1597.

To be buried in Harlington church. To the poor of the parishes of Harlington, Malden, Westning, Tingrith, Flitwick, and Clophill, 20s. to each parish.

To Raphe Astrey, my second son, at his age of 22, and to his heirs in tail, my lands at Ligrave in the parish of Luton, and my moiety of the Three Cranes in the Vintry of London, and also £100 in money in addition to the £100 given to him by his grandfather's Will.

To my daughter Anne, £1000 at 18 or her marriage.

To Elizabeth Marckam, £20 at her marriage, and in the mean while 20s. a year.

To my wife Elizabeth, all my household stuff except one stone pott with a silver and gilt cover and two goblets of silver and gilt, on condition of her entering into bond to leave the same to my next heir on the day of her remarriage or death.

To my son Henry Astrey and his heirs in tail, all my lands in Harlington, Westninge, Sandon, Pullexhill, Malden, Tingrith, Fletwicke, Sylvester, and Toddington, all in Bedfordshire; and also my land in All Hallowes, Kent, with remainder to my next heirs.

To Raphe Pare my kinsman, £10; and to Margaret Pare his aunt, £5.

To each of my brothers and sisters and brothers-in-lawe, 20s. for rings.

My son Henry Astrey to be my executor, and the Rt. Hon. Olyver, Lord St. John of Bletahoe, George Ratherham, Esqr., Benjamin Pygott, Peter Mallorie, and Richard Graye, gent., to be overseers of my Will.

To my brother George Astrey's children, 100 marks, on condition that he procures from his wife the release of 'all her estate in the land in Kent' to my son Henry.

I entreat my son to deal well with the children of John Marckam deceased, and to pay them according to their father's Will.

Witnessed, 24th July 1598, by Thomas Andrewes, Vincent Rauenev, Humfrey Burgis, William Vase, John Uaher.

Codicil dated 30th July 1598.

My son Henry shall be bound to my wife Elizabeth, and my brother-in-law, Richard Graye, for the payment of the £1000 which I have given to my daughter Anne.

Will and Codicils proved 25th January 1598-9 in P.C.C. by Henry Astry. [5 Kidd.]

Ralph Astry II. had issue by his wife Elizabeth, who survived him, two sons and two daughters, viz.

I. HENRY ASTRY, his son and heir.

II. RALPH ASTRY, ancestor of the Astrys of Little Milton, Oxon.

III. ANNE ASTRY had 1000*l.* for her marriage portion from her father, and married . . . Threele; but she died a widow without children in the parish of St. Botolph's without Bishopsgate in London, and letters of administration were granted to her brother Henry on 31st Jan. 1621-2.

IV. MARY ASTRY is mentioned in her grandfather's Will in 1584, but died unmarried before her father.

X.

RALPH ASTRY, the second son of Ralph Astry II. of Harlington Woodend, was born in, or soon after, 1578, and inherited from his father lands at Maulden, in Beds, at Lygrave in the parish of Luton, and a tenement called the Three Cranes in the Vintry in London. (79) He married before 1614, and established himself at Little Milton in Oxfordshire, where he founded a family which outlasted all the other branches; for Dr. Francis Astry, the last of the Astrys of Harlington, gave by his Will in 1761 his gold watch and seals engraved with the Arms of Astry to William Astry of Little Milton, who was then living there with his brother and sister. Ralph Astry had issue six sons and two daughters, who were all baptized at Milton,* and was buried there on 6th Dec. 1654. (80) What I have discovered about his descendants is embodied in a tabular pedigree on my next page.

RAPHE ASTREY OF LITTLE MILTON, OXON, GENT. Will dated 1st December 1650.

To be buried in Milton churchyard.

£50 yearly to my wife, in lieu of her jointure, to be paid out of my lands in Little Milton.

To my daughter Milicent, 40s.

To my son William Astrey and his heirs, my farm in Maulden called the Three Chimneys, now held by John Freelove, the said William paying £5 yearly to my son Raphe.

To my son Henry Astrey, £16 yearly out of my lands in Toddington, Beds.

To my son Raphe and his heirs, my house and lands in Maulden now held by Thomas Savage, and £100.

To my son Michael Astrey and his heirs, my lands and tenements in Toddington, he paying the aforesaid £16 yearly to my son Henry.

All my other lands in England to my son Francis Astrey, and my daughter Milicent to be my sole executrix. My said daughter to enjoy the 'messuage formerly passed to her.'

Witnesses : John Smith, Gyles Smith, Anthony Smith.

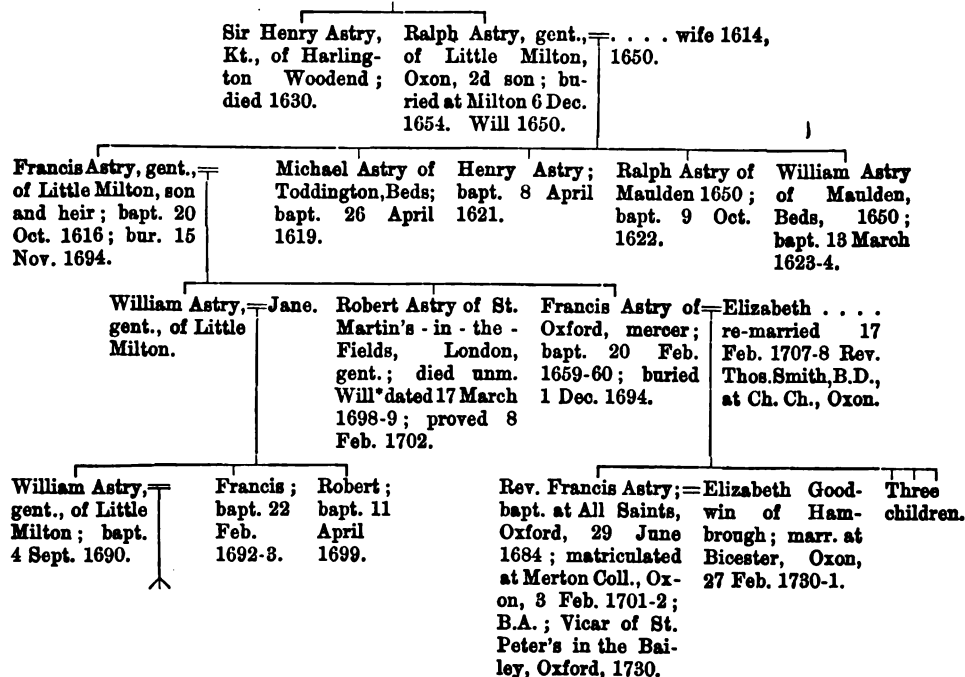
Will proved 29th December 1654 in P.C.C. by Milicent, daughter and executrix. [425 Alchin.]

XI.

HENRY ASTRY of Harlington, afterwards Sir Henry Astry, Knight, the son and heir of Ralph Astry II. by Elizabeth Grey, was born in his grandfather's house at Harlington on 24th Feb. 1576-7, (82) and was therefore above 21 years of age when his father died; but for some reason that I cannot explain the formal proof of his age was delayed until he was 24. (82). He married at Harlington, on 1st June 1611, Mary, daughter of William St. John, Esq., and Barbara his wife, (83) by whom he had three sons and three daughters. He was knighted at Ampthill by King Charles I. on 23d July 1627, (25) and died at Harlington on 25th April 1630,

* Little Milton was not formed into a separate parish until the new church was built there in 1843. Up to that time it was included in Great Milton.

PEDIGREE OF ASTRY OF LITTLE MILTON, OXON.



Registers not otherwise specified are from Great Milton, Oxon.

aged 53. (83) It was found, at the inquest held after his death on 4th Oct. 1630, that his heir was his son William, who was then 15 years of age. (83)

SIR HENRY ASTRY OF WOOD END, HARLINGTON, BEDS., KNIGHT. Will dated 31st March 1630. To be buried in the chancel of the parish church of Harlington.

My son and heir, William Astry, Esq., to be my executor when he reaches the age of 21, and during his minority, my wife Lady Mary Astry to be my sole executrix; but if he dies under age, she is to be my executrix during the minority of my next heir. Whereas I have assigned, by deed dated 26th March 1630, to Rafe Mallory of Shelton, Beds, gent., and Rafe Pare of Harlington, gent., my Rectory and Parsonage of Westoning, Beds, for thirty years upon trust, to raise portions for my two younger sons and three daughters, my Will is that £500 be raised out of the rents for my daughter Anne, £400 for my daughter Barbara, and other £400 for my daughter Mary; and subject to the payment to my sons Francis and Henry of £600 each, as directed by the said deed, the surplus rents shall be paid to my said son William at 21.

The Rt. Honble. Thomas, Earl of Cleveland,† to be overseer of my Will.

Witnesses: Humphry Hill, Thos. Allsopp, Cornelius White.

Will proved 21st June 1630 in P.C.C. [58 Scroope.]

* See Wills of Astry in Appendix II. at p. 112.

† Thomas Lord Wentworth, created Earl of Cleveland by Charles I., 5th Feb. 1625-6, was Captain of the Band of Pensioners to Charles I. and Charles II., and died 26th March 1667, at the age of 75.

Sir Henry Astry had issue by his wife Mary St. John three sons and three daughters, who were all very young at the time of their father's death: (83)

I. WILLIAM ASTRY, son and heir.

II. FRANCIS ASTRY, heir of his brother William.

III. HENRY ASTRY was educated at Cambridge, and, entering holy orders, was beneficed at Bally Kelly, near Londonderry, in Ireland. But when the Civil Wars broke out his goods were plundered by the rebels, and he was driven from his benefice. He died in great poverty before 1648, when his orphan son, WILLIAM ASTRY, who was then 14 years old, and had been instructed in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin by his father, made petition to the Earl of Manchester, the Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, to obtain for him a 'competent livelihood for his progression in learning.' (88)

IV. ANNE ASTRY was born in 1618, and had a marriage-portion of 500*l*. She married, by license* dated 16th May 1635, with her mother's consent, Thomas Peart, Esq., of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, the son and heir-apparent of James Peart, Esq., of the same parish. (25) Her husband was afterwards a colonel in the army of Charles I., and had issue three daughters—1. MARY; 2. ELIZABETH; 3. DOROTHY, who are mentioned with their mother, in 1659, in their uncle Francis Astry's Will. Colonel Peart died long before his wife, who married secondly, after 1659, Robert Anderson, Esq., of Chichester, a barrister of Lincoln's-inn, and the second son of Sir Richard Anderson, Kt., of Pendley, Herts. (84A) She had no issue by her second marriage: but her eldest daughter, Mary† Peart, married her kinsman Richard Astry, gent., of St. Mary's, Huntingdon, (74) who was descended from a younger brother of the first Ralph Astry of Harlington. Their only surviving child, Elizabeth Astry, married Thomas Tryce, Esq., of a well-known family in Huntingdonshire, as will be seen in the pedigree of the Astrys of Huntingdonshire, at p. 70.

V. BARBARA ASTRY had a marriage-portion of 400*l*., and married, first, . . . Miller, by whom she had a son, MICHAEL MILLER, who is mentioned in his uncle's Will in 1659. Barbara married, secondly, Richard Cooper, of Titsey, Surrey, who survived her, and took out letters of administration on 14th Feb. 1648-9.

VI. MARY ASTRY died unmarried, and was buried at Harlington on 12th May 1689. (84)

* *Marriage License from Bishop of London's Registry*: (25)
1635, May 16. Thomas Peart, Esq., of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Middlesex, bachelor, aged 21, son of James Peart, Esq., of the same parish, and Mrs. Anne Astry of Wood End, Beds, spinster, aged 17, daughter of Sir Henry Astry deceased, with the consent of her mother, the Lady Mary Astry, widow, and of his own father, to marry at St. Faith's, London.

† *M.I. in the Chancel of St. Mary's, Huntingdon*: (25)
Mary, wife of Richard Astry, gent., eldest daughter and coheir of Colonel Thomas Pert, Esq., by Anne, eldest daughter of Sir Henry Astry, Kt.; died 6th March 1670-1.

XII.

WILLIAM ASTRY of Harlington, the son and heir of Sir Henry, by Mary St. John, was 15 years old when his father died, and his wardship fell to the King. (83) He died a minor and unmarried at the age of 17, on 24th Sept. 1632; and it was found at the inquest, which was held at Leighton Buzzard on 20th Nov. 1632, that his heir was his brother Francis, who was 13 years 11 months and 24 days old on the day of the date of the inquest. (85)

XIII.

FRANCIS ASTRY of Harlington, the second son of Sir Henry Astry by Mary St. John, was born on . . Nov. 1618, and was nearly 14 years old when he succeeded to the family estates on his brother William's death in 1632. (85) He was, like his brother, the ward of King Charles I., and entered his pedigree at the Visitation of Bedfordshire in 1634. He married Dorothy, second daughter of Sir Fleetwood Dormer, Kt., of Lee Grange, in the parish of Quainton, Bucks, and had issue four children. He died at Toddington, Beds, on 14th May 1659, and was buried on 19th May at Harlington. (84) His wife survived him, and was the executrix of his Will.

FRANCIS ASTRY OF WOOD END, HARLINGTON, BEDS, ESQ. Will dated 22d April 1659.

To be buried in the chancel of the parish church of Harlington.

To my daughter Mary all the monies in my house at the time of my death, and all rents due, and the money due for wood sold by William Field and Thomas Powell, as also the Two Cocks in Longlands, and she shall render a true account to my trustees, William Shepherd, Esq., Richard Edwards, Esq., George Wyngate, gent., and William Pryer, gent.

To the poore of Westoning, £35.

Whereas I have conveyed certain lands to my said trustees for the purpose of raising of £1500 as portions for my younger children, the same is to be divided equally between my son Dormer, and my two daughters Mary and Dorothe.

To my sister Anne Pearte, £20; and to her three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth, and Dorothy, £30. To my nephew Michael Miller, the son of my sister Barbara, £20. To my cozen Edwards, and her sons John and Wentworth, £20. To Henry Phillipps, £6.

My wife to be my sole executrix, and to have my standing crops, and the use of my house during her widowhood.

To my kinsman Master James Astry of London, merchant, my best saddle-horse; and to him and his wife Diana, £20 each.

Witnesses: Alexander Nesbell, William Martin, John Latimer, James Martin.

Will proved 9th June 1659 in P.C.C. by Dorothe Astry, relict of the testator. [350 Pell.]

Francis Astry had issue by his wife Dorothy Dormer two sons and two daughters, viz.

I. JAMES ASTRY, son and heir, afterwards Sir James Astry, Kt.

II. DORMER ASTRY, was baptized at Harlington on 27th Aug. 1657, and, dying in infancy, was buried there on 20th Dec. 1659, (84) seven months after his father's death.

III. MARY ASTRY married at Harlington, on 22d Sept. 1659, . . . Rawlins, Esq. (84)

IV. DOROTHY ASTRY was still unmarried in 1663.

Dorothy Astry, the mother of these children, and the widow of Francis Astry, Esq., of Harlington, died at Hadley, near Barnet, in Middlesex, and was buried at Harlington on 5th May 1664. (84)

DOROTHY ASTREY, late of Harlington Wood End, Beds, and now of Hadley, near Barnet, Middlesex, WIDOW, RELICT OF LATE FRANCIS ASTREY, Esq., DECEASED.

Will dated 8th Sept. 1663.

William Shepard,* late of the parish of Great Rolright, Oxon, Esq., and James Astrey† of S. Hellens, London, gent., to be my executors.

To be buried near my late husband, in the chancel of Harlington church.

To my son and heir James Astrey, if he attain 21 years, my wedding-ring, silver watch, half my plate, and all my household goods. But if he die under age, then they shall all go to my daughter Dorothy Astrey; but if she does not attain 21 years, then they shall be divided between my said executors.

To my said daughter all my pearls, half my plate, my diamond and other rings; and the goods in Master William Bird's house, in the parish of Shortwell, and all my wearing apparell in the mansion house at Harlington Wood End; and also my leasehold lands in Hardingfield.

To my daughter Mary Rawlins, 20s.

To my brothers John‡ and Fleetwood Dormer,§ 10s. each.

To my nephews Fleetwood,|| John, Eusebius, and Dormer Shepard, 10s. each.

My son to allow my executors to collect the rents under the deed of trust made by his father Francis Astry to Master Eusebius Dormer¶ and Raphe Mallory for raising of portions for the younger children; and whereas I fear that Dorothy Astry's portion will fall short of that of her sister Mary Rawlins, I desire that due provision be made for my said daughter Dorothy.

Witnesses: Richard Birch, Edward Wilford, John Wilford.

Will proved 2d May 1664 in P.C.C. [46 Bruce.]

XIV.

JAMES ASTRY of Harlington, afterwards Sir James Astry, Kt., the only surviving son of Francis Astry, Esq., of Harlington, by Dorothy Dormer, was born on 14th Oct. 1653, and was baptized on 16th Oct. in the same year at Harlington. (84) He was only six years old when his father died, and was not yet eleven when he lost his

* William Shepard, Esq., married Mary Dormer, sister of the testatrix. (86)

† James Astry of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, merchant, was a son of George Astry of Eaton Socon, Beds, who was the grand-uncle of Francis Astry, husband of the testatrix (see p. 85).

‡ John Dormer of Lee Grange was the father of Sir John Dormer, created a baronet in 1661, and of Sir Robert Dormer, Kt., M.P. for Bucks, and a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. (87) Some account of the Dormers of Lee Grange in the previous generation will be found in my *Genealogical Memoirs of the Chesters of Chicheley*, vol. i. p. 58.

§ Afterwards Sir Fleetwood Dormer, Kt., of Arle Court, Gloucestershire, who emigrated to Virginia. (86)

|| Sir Fleetwood Shepard, gent., Usher of the Black Rod, knighted at Whitehall 22d April 1694, died unmarried at Copt Hall in August 1698 (Le Neve's *Pedigrees of Knights*, p. 446).

¶ Eusebius Dormer, the youngest brother of the testatrix, derived his Christian name from his mother's father, Sir Euseby or Eusebius Isham, Kt., of Braunston, Northamptonshire. (86)

mother; but he found affectionate guardians in his mother's brother-in-law, William Shepard of Great Rolright, Oxon, and his father's kinsman, James Astry of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate. He was sent in due time to Oxford, where he matriculated at Brasenose College on 14th July 1671. (25) But in those days the heir of a good estate was expected to marry young, and he was not yet 20 years of age when he married, at Cornwell, Oxon, on 9th Oct. 1673 Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Penyston, Bart., of that place. (89) After his marriage he studied law, and, having taken his degree at Oxford as B.C.L., on 2d Aug. 1677 (90) he was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. He was High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1682, but continued notwithstanding to practise his profession, and was appointed a Master in Chancery on 27th April 1683. (91) This lucrative post brought him honour as well as profit, for he was knighted at Whitehall by King Charles II. on 20th Nov. 1683, (52) and was named by James II. one of the Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber. (90) He retained his office as Master above eleven years, for the appointment of his successor, Richard Holford, Esq., is dated 28th June 1694. (91) He survived his retirement more than fifteen years, and his leisure was employed in literary and antiquarian research. He edited, with additions and corrections, Sir Henry Spelman's *Glossarium Archæologicum*, to which he prefixed a commentary on Spelman's life and writings. (90) He died at the age of 56, and was buried at Harlington on 15th Nov. 1709. (84)

Sir James Astry had issue by his wife Anne Penyston three sons and four daughters.

I. JAMES ASTRY, his son and heir.

II. FRANCIS ASTRY, brother and heir of James.

III. PENYSTON ASTRY was baptized at Harlington on 9th July 1680, (84) and died unmarried in 1742, at the age of 62.

IV. ANNE ASTRY.

V. HENRIETTA ASTRY, married on 1st July 1732, Sir Thomas Hatton, Bart., of Long Stanton, Cambridgeshire, by whom she had no issue. He died at his brother-in-law's seat at Wood End, 22d June 1733, (92) and was buried at Long Stanton.

VI. ELIZABETH ASTRY was baptized at St. Andrew's, Holborn, on 6th Nov. 1687, (84) and died in childhood.

VII. CHARLOTTE ASTRY was baptized at St. Andrew's, Holborn, on 2d Aug. 1692, (84) and, like her sister Elizabeth, died young.

XV.

JAMES ASTRY, ESQ., of Harlington, the eldest son and heir of Sir James Astry, Kt., by Anne Penyston his wife, was born in 1675, and was, like his father, educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, where he matriculated on 25th Aug. 1691, at the age

of 16. (25) He succeeded to the family estates on the death of his father in 1709, and was appointed in 1712 Secretary to the Comptrollers of the Accounts of the Army, in succession to Gregory King. (93) He died unmarried, in London, at the age of 41, and was buried at Harlington on 19th Oct. 1716, (84) where his brother Francis erected a monument in the church to his memory. He made no Will, and letters of administration were granted to his brother and heir Dr. Francis Astry, on 9th Nov. 1716.

XVI.

FRANCIS ASTRY of Harlington, the second son of Sir James Astry, Kt., by Anne Penyston his wife, was born in 1676, and matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, on 28th May 1692, when he was in his 16th year. (25) He proceeded B.A. on 1st Feb. 1695-6, and was soon afterwards elected a Fellow of Merton, where he graduated M.A. on 18th June 1702. He had in the mean while taken holy orders, and was created D.D. on 15th Oct. 1715. He succeeded on the death of his kinsman St. John Astry of Henbury, in 1742, to the estates in Lincolnshire and Huntingdonshire, which had been entailed on him by the Will of Luke Astry of Lincoln's Inn, in 1707, in case of the failure of Sir Samuel Astry's male heirs; and in 1716 he inherited the family estates in Bedfordshire on the death of his elder brother James. He was appointed Treasurer of St. Paul's Cathedral 30th Sept. 1715, and was collated a prebendary in 1718, both which preferments he held until his death. (94) He had no issue by his wife Susan Walklate, and died on 30th Oct. 1766, in his 91st year. He retained to the last all his senses and faculties, and was elected at the age of 84 to preach before the Lord Mayor at St. Paul's, on 14th March 1760, the day appointed by Royal authority to be a day of public fasting and humiliation. (94) He was the last survivor of his family, and devised his estates at Harlington to his cousin on the mother's side, Francis Penyston, Esq., of Cornwell, Oxon.

FRANCIS ASTRY OF WOODEND, IN PARISH OF HARLINGTON, BEDS, D.D.

Will dated 2d Oct. 1761.

To be buried near my dear wife, in the vault prepared for that purpose, in my chancel in the church of Westoning. All my real estate to my cousin Ffairmedon Penyston of Cornwell, Oxon, Esq., subject to an annuity of £26 to Mrs. Elizabeth Trinder for her life. To Mr. William Astry of Little Milton, Oxon, my gold watch, and two of my seals with our family arms. To the brother and sister of the said William Astry, £50, and a pair of my largest silver candlesticks, and mourning rings. To my kinswoman Mrs. Munden, £5. To my nephew Sir Thomas Rawlinson, Kt., Alderman of London, £12 12s. 0d. and a ring. To Walter and Susanna, children of aforesaid Sir Thomas Rawlinson, £12 12s. 0d. each and a ring. To my nephew Richard Ray, £12 12s. 0d. and a ring. To Mr. Howey of Kidlington, Oxon, and his lady, a ring each. To Mr. Chace, apothecary, £100. To Mr. Rowse, £30. To Mrs. Penyston of Cornwell, 200 ounces of my plate. To my godson Francis Penyston my chased gold watch. To Mrs. Manwaring a pair of silver candlesticks; and to her sister Elizabeth Penyston, £5. To

the Rev. Mr. Bertie of Honyton, Devon, and his lady, and to Dr. Ffynes and his lady, and Mr. and Mrs. Baysand, a ring each. The residue to said Ffairmedon Penyston, my executor.

Will proved 10th Nov. 1766 in P.C.C. by the executor. [395 Tyndall.]

XVII.

I now revert to George Astry, the younger son of Ralph I. of Harlington Woodend, and the ancestor of Sir Samuel Astry of Henbury, whose male issue became extinct in 1712, when this younger branch of the Astrys came to be represented by Thomas Chester V. of Knole and his three maternal aunts.

GEORGE ASTRY of Eaton Socon, Beds, the second son of Ralph Astry, Esq., the purchaser of Harlington Woodend by his wife Alice, was amply provided for by his father, who left him by his Will in 1584 400*l.* in money and all his lands, of his own purchase, in the parishes of Caddington, Luton, Dunstable, and Kensworth, in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. George married before his father's death Lora, the only child of Thomas Rowley of Huntingdonshire, by whom he had issue six sons and five daughters. The date of his death is unknown; but he was still living when his daughter Grace was baptized at Eaton Socon on 20th Oct. 1606.

George Astry of Eaton Socon had issue by his wife Lora Rowley six sons, viz.

I. LUKE ASTRY, son and heir.

II. JOHN ASTRY inherited his father's lands in Nether Staploe, in the parish of Eaton Socon. He acquired in some way a plantation in the island of St. Christopher's, and resolved on making a voyage to the West Indies to look after it. This resolution is expressed in the following Will, which he made on the 3d Aug. 1630 at Shelton in Bedfordshire, the seat of his cousin Ralph Mallory, whom he appointed his executor, and to whom he devised his meadows in Nether Staploe, subject to a mortgage of 200*l.* due to Dr. William Dolben,* Rector of Stanwick in Northamptonshire. John sailed for the West Indies in the following November, and it must be presumed that he died on his voyage, for the following Will was proved by his cousin Ralph Mallory on 19th Jan. 1630-1.

JOHN ASTRY OF SHELTON, BEDS, GENT. Will dated 3d Aug. 1630.

'A young man of able body and perfect mind; yet because I do determine to pass beyond seas into the West Indies, where I may encounter many dangers and a sudden death, I make my Will as follows:'

To my cozen Mr. Raph Mallory of Shelton, all those closes of pastures in Nether Staploe, in the parish of Eaton Soken, which my father and I mortgaged to Doctor Dolben of Standwicke for £200, and which fall to my heirs in reversion after my father's death, with the condition that my said cozen Malorie pay the said Doctor his said £200, and make the best of the said closes, and sell them to whoever will give most for them.

All my other lands, tenements, and heridaments in Nether Staploe, which descended to me and my heirs after my father's death, to my brother James Astrey and his heirs, with

* Dr. William Dolben died Bishop nominate of Gloucester. His eldest son, Dr. John Dolben, died Archbishop of York in 1686, and was the ancestor of the Baronets of this name at Finedon in Northamptonshire.

remainder to St. John Astrey, my brother and his heirs, with this condition, that he pays out of said lands as my father appointed £20, to my brother Luke Astrey to increase his library, and £10 to each of my brother Luke's children. All the rest of my goods in England to my cozen Mallory, whom I make my exor.

Witnesses: Grace Mallory, Thomas Mallory, St. John Astrey, Lore Spenser.

Will proved 19th Jan. 1630-31 in P.C.C. by Raphe Malory of Shelton. [7 St. John.]

This Will, however, was not allowed to stand; for John Astry, after leaving Shelton, went up to London to prepare for his voyage, and was hospitably entertained by his brother James, who was a merchant living in the parish of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate. He stayed several months with his brother, and was induced before he sailed to make another Will in his favour, to the exclusion of his cousin. James eventually succeeded in establishing his rights in May 1633, when the probate of the Will in favour of Ralph Mallory was brought into court and cancelled; but this success was only obtained after two years of litigation, resulting in family dissensions, which were never reconciled. James kept to the day of his death the meadows at Nether Staploe, which had been his brother's patrimony, and which he had rescued with so much difficulty from Ralph Mallory; but they were lost after his death to the family of Astry, for they were left by his Will at the disposal of his widow, and formed part of the provision which she made in 1682 for her niece Judith Bee.

JOHN ASTRY OF LONDON, GENT. Will dated 4th Nov. 1630.

All the lands and tenements that I have in England or elsewhere to my brother James Astry, and likewise all my goods and chattels, and the right or title that I have 'unto any servants in the Island of St. Christopher's' or elsewhere, with their indentures and terme of years.

Witnesses: James Shotbolt, Henry Oueille, Mathew Maseken.

Will proved 16th May 1633 by James Astry, brother and executor. The previous testament, with probate of the same in the name of Ralph Mallory, the pretended executor of the defunct, dated January 1630, having been brought in and cancelled. [36 Russell.]

III. ST. JOHN ASTRY, the third son of George Astry of Eaton Socon, was baptized there on 15th Oct. 1593, (81) and is mentioned in his brother John's Will in 1630. He inherited from his mother's family lands in Sutton St. James and St. Edmund's, Lincolnshire, and in the parish of Holywell cum Needingworth, Hunts, which evidently descended after his wife's death to his nephew Luke Astry of Lincoln's Inn. He had no issue by his wife Judith (who survived him), and died in 1660, when he was buried at Holywell.

ST. JOHN ASTRY, IN THE TOWN OF HOLLOWELL CUM NEEDINGWORTH, HUNTS, GENT.

Will dated 14th Oct. 1659.

To be buried in Hallowell church.

To my wife Judith Astry my lands in Lincolnshire and at Hallowell and Needingworth for her life, and after to my heirs.

To my godson Thomas Lyeddy, £20; and if any of my nieces or nephews come in they shall have 1s. each.

My said wife to be my executrix.

Will proved 19th July 1660 by the widow in P.C.C. [159 Nabb.]

IV. JAMES ASTRY, the fourth son of George Astry of Eaton Socon, was a merchant of London, residing in the parish of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate. He was born in 1601; for he asserts in his Will that he was 76 years old in September 1677, although he is described in his marriage-license as 25 years old in 1633. (104) He was the testamentary heir of his brother John in 1631, and married at St. Bride's, Fleet-street, London, on 28th July 1633, Diana, daughter of Edward Bee, gent., of Little St. Bartholomew's, London. (25) He had no issue, and, subject to his wife's life estate, made his grandnephew James Astry, the grandson of his brother Ralph, his heir. But in case of his grandnephew's dying in his minority, he preferred his cousin James Astry of Harlington to his brother Luke's children, who are never mentioned in his Will. It must be suspected that he had never forgiven his brother Luke for being benefited by the pretended Will of their brother John, which it had cost him so much trouble to upset. James died at the age of 78, and was buried at St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, on 23d Jan. 1678-9. (74)

JAMES ASTRY OF THE PARISH OF ST. HELLENS, LONDON, GENT.

Will dated 12th Sept. 1677.

Being aged 3 score and 16 years, I desire my wife Diana, after my death, to call in all monies and bonds due to me, and pay them to my friends, Mr. Thomas Pattell, citizen and Ironmonger, London, and Mr. Thomas Kemble, Draper, London, that they may put the same out at interest for her benefit during her life; and after her death, they are to pay over these moneys to Mr. John Buckworth of London, Turkey merchant, for the use of his and my grandnephew James Astry, son of James Astry of the parish of Bratoft, co. Lincoln, gent., till he is 21. But if my said nephew dies before my wife, then the money shall go to such brother as he may leave; and if there be none, to James Astry of Harlington Wood End, Beds, Esq.

All my lands and tenements in England or elsewhere to my said wife for her life, with remainder to my said grandnephew James Astry, with remainder to the said James Astry of Harlington Wood End.

To my nephew Mr. John Saunderson of Temsford, Beds, 12s.

My wife to be my executrix, and the said Mr. John Buckworth, Mr. Thomas Pattell, Mr. Thomas Kemble, and Mr. John Saunderson to be overseers.

Witnesses: Francis Burton, William Bower, Ra. Eddowes, Daniel Chandler.

Will proved 20th Jan. 1678-9 in P.C.C. [1 King.]

The widow Diana Astry proved her husband's Will three days before the day of his burial. She survived him three years, and was buried near him at St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, on 31st May 1682. (74)

DIANA ASTRY OF THE PARISH OF GREAT S. HELLENS, LONDON, WIDOW.

Will dated 23d May 1682.

To be buried in the parish church of S. Hellen, where I live.

To my niece Judith Bee, who lives with me, £300 and all my jewels, plate, and household goods not otherwise bestowed.

I give £600 for the purchase of lands in the name and for the use of my cousin Robert Pattle, son of my kinsman Thomas Pattle, and his heirs male in tail, on condition that he and they write their name Bee als. Pattle, with remainder on the same conditions to Thomas Pattle,

another son of the said Thomas Pattle, in fee tail ; remainder to Edward Pattle, another son of the said Thomas Pattle, in fee tail ; remainder to my brother Edward Bee's grandson, of Stiflin, Yorkshire, in fee tail ; remainder to my own right heirs.

To my goddaughter Diana Pattle, daughter of the said Thomas Pattle, £200 at her age of 21 or one month after her marriage. To my friend William Bower, £20.

The residue of my estate, real and personal, and also the lands and tenements belonging to me by virtue of a mortgage^c from George Astry and John Astry to Dr. William Dolben and John Dolben, paid long since by my late husband, and all other mortgages of my late husband, to my niece Judith Bee, whom I make my executrix.

Thomas Pattle, my kinsman, and William Bower to be overseers.

Witnesses : Amy Raphes, William Bower, scrivener, Ashmore Mason, John Lloyd.

Will proved 1st June 1682 in P.C.C. by Judith Bee. [67 Cottle.]

V. ROBERT ASTRY was baptized at Eaton Socon on 13th July 1596. (81)

VI. RALPH ASTRY, the sixth son of George Astry of Eaton Socon, was a married man with children in 1630, when his brother John made his Will, and inherited lands at Braytoft in Lincolnshire.

JAMES ASTRY, son and heir of Ralph, succeeded his father at Braytoft before 1677, and married the niece of Mr. John Buckworth, merchant of London. He died before 1706, leaving a son of his own name.

JAMES ASTRY, son and heir of James, was the heir of his granduncle James Astry of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, in 1679, and came into possession of his estate in 1682, on the death of his granduncle's widow. He was still living in Jan. 1706-7, when Luke Astry of Lincoln's Inn made his Will.

VII. JANE ASTRY, the eldest daughter of George Astry of Eaton Socon, was in 1618 the wife of William Sanderson of Tempsford, Beds, and had two sons : I. LAWRENCE ; II. JOHN. (96) John is mentioned in the Will of his uncle James Astry of St. Helen's in 1677.

George Astry had also four other daughters, of whom nothing is known to me except the dates of their baptisms at Eaton Socon. (81)

VIII. MARY ASTRY was baptized on 26th June 1595, and, I presume, died an infant.

IX. MARY ASTRY was baptized on 1st Oct. 1598.

X. JUDITH ASTRY was baptized on 7th Aug. 1605.

XI. GRACE ASTRY was baptized on 20th Oct. 1606.

XVIII.

LUKE ASTRY, son and heir of George Astry of Eaton Socon, by Lora Rowley his wife, was married and had children, when his brother John made his Will in 1630. It may be guessed from the allusion to his library that he was a lawyer by profession, but nothing is known about him except that he had two sons. 1. LUKE ; 2. SAMUEL.

* See p. 88 and note.

XIX.

LUKE ASTRY, the eldest son of Luke, was a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, and inherited the estates of his uncle St. John Astry in Huntingdonshire and Lincolnshire. He died unmarried at his chambers on 16th June 1708, and was buried in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on 21st June following, (81) when his nephew St. John Astry was his heir.

LUKE ASTRY OF LINCOLN'S INN, CO. MIDDLESEX, ESQ.

Will dated 23d Jan. 1706-7.

To be buried under Lincoln's Inn Chapel. All my messuages, lands, and tenements in Sutton St. James and Sutton St. Edmund's, co. Lincoln, and in Needingworth cum Holywell, Hunts, to my friends and kinsmen Frederick Slare^o als. Scholer, Doctor in Physick, and Francis† Astry, Fellow of Merton College, in Oxford, in trust to pay as follows: To Francis,† son of Francis Astry, late of the city of Oxford, and to William‡ Astry junior of Maulden, Beds, £7 per annum each for seven years; to Samuel Gibbard, £10 per annum for life; and to his sisters Susanna and —, now married at Bristol, £5 per annum each for life; and to Mrs. Mary Price and her sister Lydia, during their joint lives, £10 per annum; and to the survivor, £7 per annum for life. All these annuities to revert to my nephew Sir John Astry, only son of my only brother Sir Samuel Astry, for his life; remainder to the heirs male of his body; remainder to Francis Astry, Fellow of Merton College, and heirs male; remainder to James Astry, eldest son of Sir James Astry, &c.; remainder to his brother Pennyston Astry, &c.; remainder to the heirs male of the body of James Astry, grandchild and heir of Ralph Astry, youngest brother of Luke Astry, Esq., my father, the eldest son of George Astry of Basmeay, in parish Eaton Socon, co. Bedford, Esq., and Lora his wife, my grandfather and grandmother; remainder to my right heirs of the name of Astry for ever. To Sir James Astry and his three sons and youngest daughter, 5 guineas each; and to his eldest daughter, 10 guineas. To Francis, son of Francis Astry‡ of Oxford, deceased, who is now scholar of Merton College, and to William Astry‡ junior afore-said, of Maulden, 5 guineas each. To Mr. Richard§ Astry of Huntingdon, £10, to be divided among his daughter's children. My said trustees to be my executors.

Codicil dated 3d March 1706-7. To Samuel Gibbard, £10; and to his sister Susan and her sister, married at Bristol, £5 each.

Administration granted 26th June 1708 to St. John Astry, the nephew by brother and next of kin of deceased, the trustees and executors named in the Will renouncing. [125 Barrett in C.P.C.]

* Dr. Slare was a well-known physician in his day, but I have been unable to discover how he was related to the Astrys, or why he is called *Slare als. Scholer* in this Will. He was educated abroad, and began his professional career in Germany, where he was attached to the household of the Elector Palatine, the nephew of Prince Rupert. He was in attendance on the Elector at Oxford on 9th Sept. 1680, when the Prince and the chief members of his suite were created Doctors of Physic. (96) Frederick Slare was one of the M.D.s created on this occasion, although his name is omitted in the *Fasti*. (96) In the next year he was admitted at the London College of Physicians, a candidate for the Fellowship, and was elected a Fellow in 1685. He settled at Greenwich, and wrote a book in recommendation of the Pyrmont Waters, which brought him into notice. He was also well known as an active member of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He enjoyed a large practice, and died at Greenwich in the 80th year of his age on 12th Sept. 1727. (96) He was never married, and left by his Will a considerable fortune to his sister and his nephews and nieces.

† Francis Astry, Fellow of Merton, was the second son of Sir James Astry, Kt., of Harlington Woodend, who was great-grandnephew of the testator's grandfather. See pedigree at p. 72.

‡ Francis Astry, Scholar of Merton, and William Astry the younger of Maulden, Beds, were descended from Ralph Astry of Little Milton, Oxon, the nephew of the testator's grandfather. See pedigree at p. 77.

§ Richard Astry married Mary Peart, granddaughter of Sir Henry Astry, Kt., of Harlington and had an only daughter, Mrs. Tryce. See pedigree at p. 70.

XX.

SAMUEL ASTRY, afterwards Sir Samuel Astry, Kt., the second son of Luke Astry, Esq., was born in 1632, and was, like his brother Luke, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn. He was successful in his profession, and was appointed, in 1677, Clerk of the Crown in the Court of King's Bench, which lucrative office he enjoyed until his death, during a period of twenty-seven years. He improved his fortune by marrying an heiress, who brought him the mansion and manor of Henbury, in the parish of Aust, in Gloucestershire. His wife Elizabeth was the only child of George Morse, Esq., of Henbury, and had six children. Sir Samuel died on 25th Sept. 1704, in the 73d year of his age, and was buried at Aust, where his monument still remains in the church. (97)

Dame Elizabeth Astry remarried Simon Harcourt, Esq., of Pendley, Herts, Master of the Crown Office, and cousin of Simon Viscount Harcourt, Lord Chancellor 1713, but had no issue by her second husband. She died in December 1708, and letters of administration were granted to her widower on 12th Jan. 1709. He died on 30th March 1724. (98)

SIR SAMUEL ASTRY OF HENBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, KNIGHT.

Will dated 2d March 1698-9.

To be buried in my vault in the chancel of Aust Chapel. To Sir John Smith, Bart., and the Lady Elizabeth his now wife, my eldest daughter, £100 for mourning. To Thomas Chester, Esq., and Anne his now wife, my daughter, £50 for mourning. To Luke Astry, Esq., my brother, £100. (Annuities to servants.) My wife the Lady Elizabeth Astry to pay to my daughter Diana Astry £6000 on the day of her marriage, if she marry with her consent. To Arabella, my youngest daughter, £6000 at 21 or marriage. To my eldest son Luke Astry, Esq., 1000 marks per annum for life. To my youngest son St. John Astry, 400 marks per annum for life. My said wife to be my residuary legatee and sole executrix.

Codicil dated 10th Aug. 1699 revokes a legacy to a servant.

Will proved 1st Nov. 1704 by the relict Dame Elizabeth Astry.

Administration de bonis non granted 16th Dec. 1709 to Dame Elizabeth Smith, wife of Sir John Smith, Bart.; Diana, wife of Richard Orlebar, Esq.; and Arabella Astry, spinster, the surviving daughters of the testator, whose widow and executrix is now also deceased.

Sir Samuel Astry had issue by his wife Elizabeth Morse, the heiress of Henbury, two sons and four daughters, viz.

I. LUKE ASTRY, son and heir-apparent, was born in 1673, and matriculated at Hart Hall, Oxford, on 17th Nov. 1690, (25) but he left the University without taking his degree. He died unmarried in his father's lifetime, on 7th May 1701, at the age of 28. (97)

II. ST. JOHN ASTRY, surviving son and heir.

III. ELIZABETH ASTRY was born in 1670, and married before 1698 Sir John Smyth, Bart., of Long Ashton, in Somerset, M.P. for Somersetshire in 1686 and 1695. She was one of the coheirs of her brother St. John in 1712, and died 15th Sept. 1715, aged 45. Her widower died 19th May 1726, aged 66. (99) They had issue three sons and four daughters. Sir John Smyth was the representative of

John Smyth, who died Mayor of Bristol in 1554, and purchased, in 1545, the manor of Long Ashton (*see* p. 14).

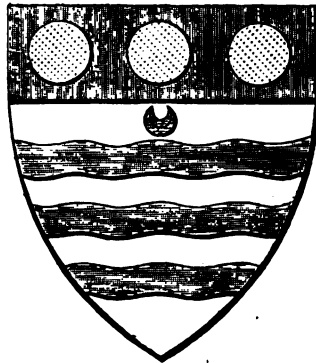
IV. ANNE ASTRY married THOMAS CHESTER, ESQ., IV. of Knole. She died in childbed in her father's lifetime, and was buried at Almondsbury on 6th Aug. 1703. (43) She left six children, and her widower was buried beside her on 26th Feb. 1704-5. (43) (*See* p. 37.)

V. DIANA ASTRY had a marriage-portion of 6000*l.* under her father's Will, and married at Lincoln's Inn Chapel, on 17th Dec. 1708, Richard Orlebar, Esq., of Hinwick, Beds. She was one of the coheirs of her brother St. John in 1712, and died on 4th Sept. 1716, when she was buried at Poddington, Beds. (100) She left several children.

VI. ARABELLA ASTRY inherited, on her brother's death in 1712, the Henbury Estate, and married, by special license dated 9th July 1715, Charles William Lord Walden, (25) who became, on his father's death in 1718, seventh Earl of Suffolk. (101) He had no issue by his wife Arabella, and died at her house at Henbury on 9th Feb. 1721-2. His widow survived him little more than four months, and died on 23d June 1722, when she was buried at Henbury. (101)

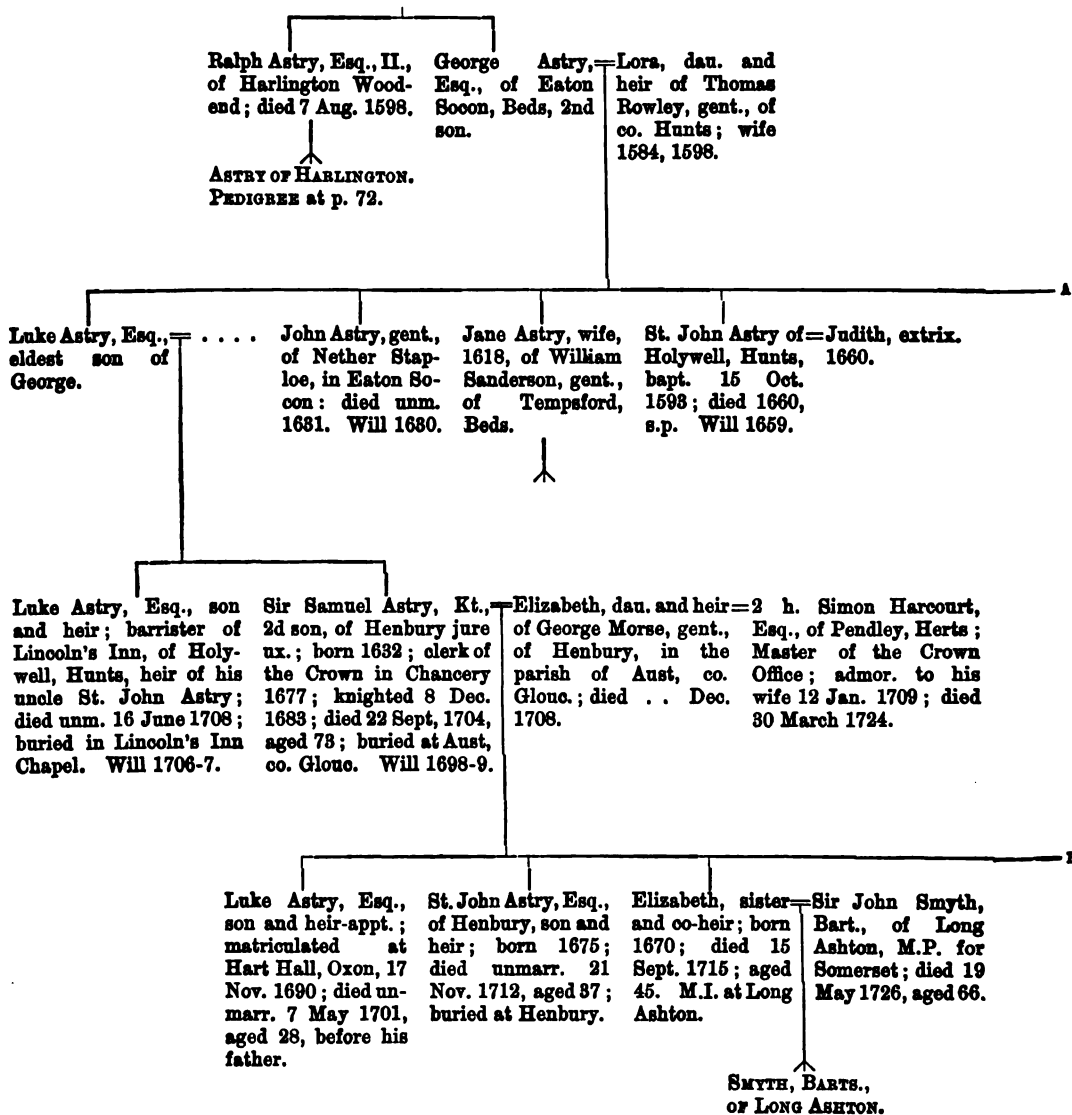
XXI.

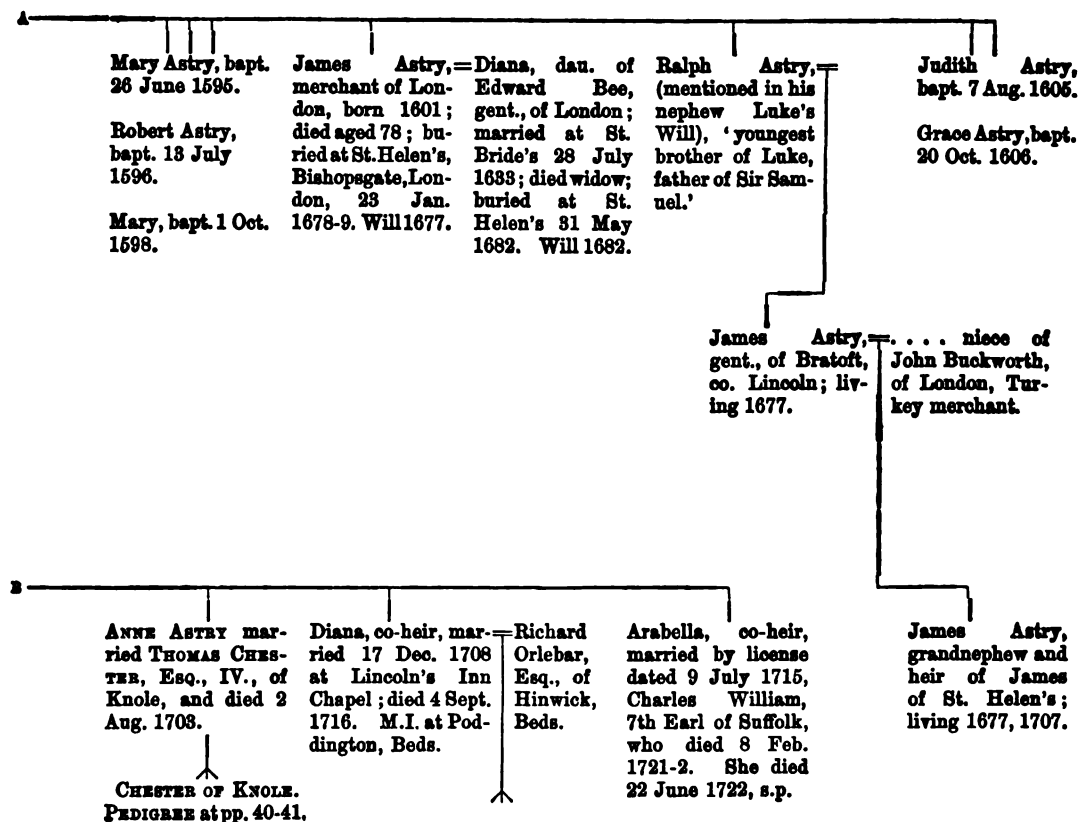
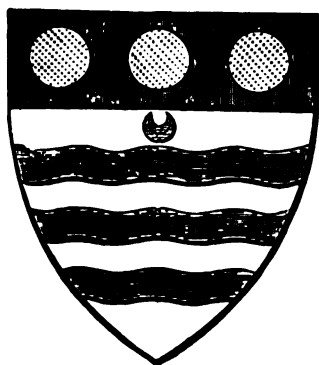
ST. JOHN ASTRY of Henbury, the surviving son and heir of Sir Samuel by Elizabeth Morse, was born in 1675, and succeeded his father in 1704. He was the heir and executor of his uncle Luke Astry in 1708, and died unmarried on 21st Nov. 1712, at the age of 37, when he was buried at Henbury. (97)



PEDIGREE OF ASTRY OF HENBURY.

PEDIGREE OF ASTRY OF HENBURY.





CHAPTER VII.

The Masters of Knole, descended from the Chesters.

ELIZABETH CHESTER, the only daughter of Thomas Chester IV. of Knole by Anne Astry, was born on 2d July 1694, and was in her issue the sole heir of the Chesters. She married at Almondsbury, on 16th Aug. 1716, Sir William Cann, the second Baronet, of Compton Green in Gloucestershire, (43) and died on 6th Jan. 1725, leaving an only child of her own name. Her husband died in the next year, on 27th April 1726, at the age of 32, (50) without having administered to her estate; and administration was granted on 20th June 1727 to her brother Thomas Chester V. of Knole, as the guardian of her only child.

ELIZABETH CHESTER CANN, the only child of Sir William Cann, Bart., by Elizabeth Chester, was an orphan from her childhood, and the ward of her uncle Thomas Chester V. of Knole. She was the heir of her father's estates at Brislington and Breane in Somersetshire, and married at Almondsbury, on 26th Dec. 1742, Thomas Master, Esq., the younger, M.P. for Cirencester. (43) He was the son and heir-apparent of Thomas Master, Esq., of The Abbey in Cirencester, which had been the seat of the family since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and had been educated at Balliol College, Oxford, where he matriculated on 12th May 1735. (25) He died in his father's lifetime, at the age of 32, and was buried at Cirencester on 1st June 1749. (45) His widow survived him 33 years, and was buried with her husband on 1st Jan. 1782. (45)

Mr. and Mrs. Master had issue three children, two sons and a daughter, viz.

I. ELIZABETH MASTER was born in 1745, and died unmarried at Bath, at the age of 71. She was buried at Cirencester on 10th April 1817. (45)

II. THOMAS MASTER, son and heir, who inherited the Chester estates in 1799 from Mrs. Bromley Chester.

III. RICHARD MASTER, of whom hereinafter, the father of the late Colonel Chester Master of Knole.

THOMAS MASTER, the son and heir of Thomas by Elizabeth Chester Cann, was born in 1744, and was therefore only five years old when his father died, and left him under the guardianship of his mother. His grand-uncle's desire that he should marry his cousin, the heiress of Knole, and her decision to break off the engagement after Mr. Chester's death, have been already related. He married at Sherborne, on 25th May 1769, Mary, daughter of James Lenox Napper Dutton, Esq., and sister of the first Lord Sherborne, who died on 12th July 1819, leaving two daughters. He was the heir of his paternal grandfather, and succeeded in 1770 to The Abbey at

Cirencester, and to the family estates of the Masters at Baunton, Preston, and Stratton in Gloucestershire. He was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1771, and was elected one of the Knights of the Shire in 1784. He retained his seat in two successive Parliaments, and retired from political life in 1796. In the mean while he had inherited, on his mother's death in 1782, the manors of Brislington and Breane in Somersetshire, which had belonged to his grandfather, Sir William Cann; but in 1799 he received a much greater accession of estate, when he succeeded, under the Will of his cousin Mrs. Bromley Chester, to the manors of Almondsbury, Barton Regis, and Brimsham, and the whole inheritance of the Chesters in Gloucestershire. The Chester estates, however, were devised to him in tail male, with remainder to his brother and his sons, and therefore, as he outlived his only son, they passed on his death to his nephew Colonel William Chester Master of the Scots Fusilier Guards.

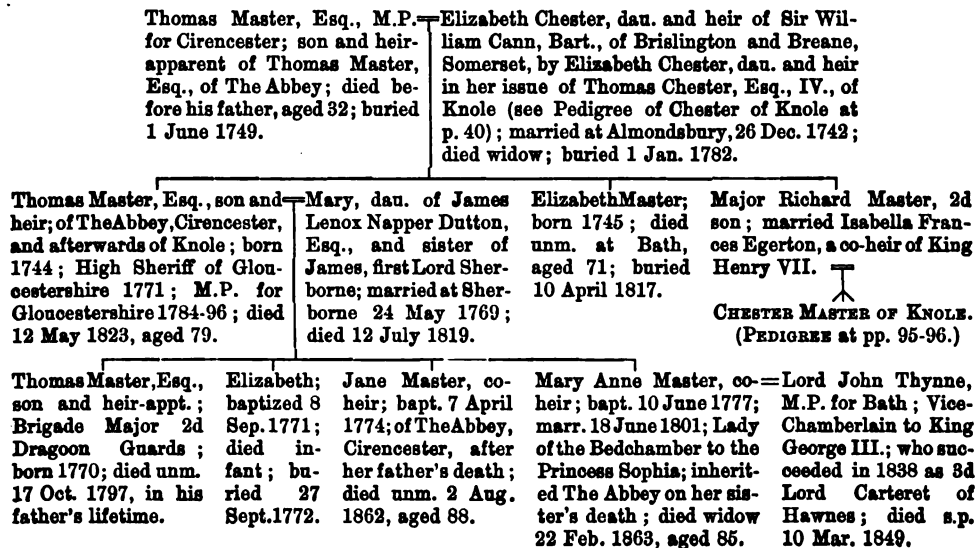
Mr. Master died on 12th May 1823, aged 79, and was buried at Cirencester, near his wife. He had issue four children, of whom only two daughters survived him.

I. THOMAS MASTER, son and heir-apparent, was born in 1770, and was Brigade-Major in the 2d Dragoon Guards; but he died unmarried in his father's lifetime, at the age of 27, on 17th Oct. 1797.

II. ELIZABETH MASTER was baptized at Cirencester on 8th Sept. 1771, and was buried there on 27th Sept. in the following year.

III. JANE MASTER was baptized at Cirencester, 7th April 1774, and succeeded on her father's death to The Abbey, Cirencester, and the other estates of the

PEDIGREE OF MASTER OF THE ABBEY, CIRENCESTER, AND OF KNOLE PARK.



Master family. She died unmarried on 2d Aug. 1862, and was succeeded at The Abbey by her only surviving sister Lady Carteret.

IV. MARY ANNE MASTER was baptized at Cirencester on 10th June 1777, and married, on 18th June 1801, Lord John Thynne, M.P. for Bath and Vice-Chamberlain to King George III., who succeeded, in 1838, as third Lord Carteret of Hawnes, and died without issue on 10th March 1849, when the barony of Carteret became extinct. Lady Carteret was for some years Lady of the Bedchamber to the Princess Sophia, and succeeded to the family estates on the death of her sister Jane in August 1862; but she lived to enjoy them little more than six months, for she died on 22d Feb. 1863, when her cousin Colonel Chester Master of Knole was her heir, and the Master estates were again united with the inheritance of the Chesters.

II.

RICHARD MASTER, the second son of Thomas by Elizabeth Chester Cann, was born in 1746, and was Major in his Majesty's 24th Regiment of Foot. He married, on 18th March 1784, Isabella Frances, third daughter and coheir of Colonel William Egerton, of the Royal Horse Guards Blue, M.P. for Brackley, Master of the Jewel Office, and grandson of John, third Earl of Bridgewater. She was born on 12th Dec. 1759, and brought into the family the right of quartering the Royal* Arms, through her descent from Mary Tudor, Queen of France and Duchess of Suffolk, the younger daughter of King Henry VII. Major Master was elected M.P. for Cirencester in 1785, and retained his seat in two successive Parliaments. He was afterwards Consul at Algiers, and subsequently Governor of Tobago. He died at Fort Royal, Martinique, on 26th Oct. 1800. His widow survived him forty-seven years, and died at Paris on 2d Dec. 1847, in the 88th year of her age.

Major Richard Master had issue five sons, viz.

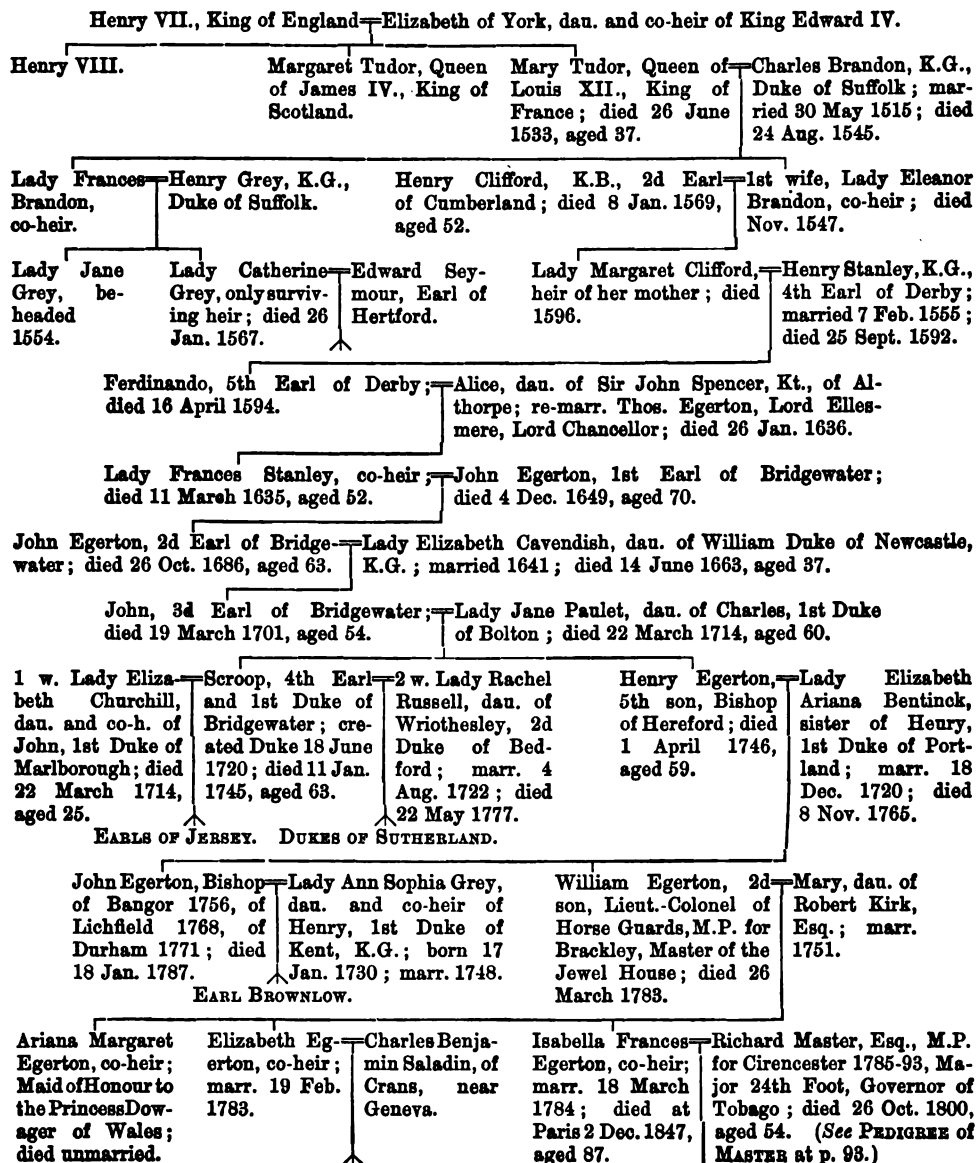
I. WILLIAM CHESTER MASTER, afterwards of Knole.

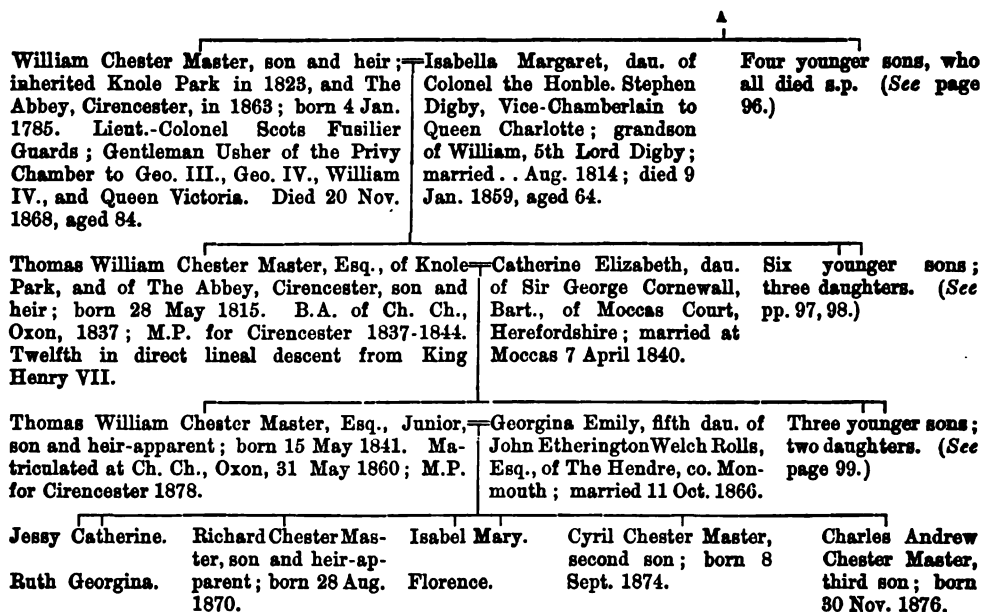
II. HENRY MASTER was born on 27th June 1786, and died unmarried in South America.

* The coheirs of the Egerton family are undoubtedly entitled to quarter the Royal Arms, in right of their descent from Eleanor Brandon the younger, daughter and coheir of Mary Tudor, Queen of France, the younger sister of Henry VIII.; but it is by no means certain what precise modification of the Royal Arms they are entitled to bear. The assumption of the Arms of England and France without a difference, as if Eleanor Brandon had been Queen of England, is manifestly absurd; for the Sovereign only is entitled to bear the Arms of Dominion: but against all reason the undifferenced coat of the Tudors is included amongst the quarterings of the second Duke of Sutherland on his garter-plate, so that the coheirs of Egerton are now warranted in using it by the highest heraldic authority. Cadets of the Royal blood had usually the Royal Arms assigned to them with a difference; and Frances Brandon, Duchess of Suffolk, the elder sister of Eleanor, bore the Royal Arms within a bordure gobonny Or and Azure by the grant of Queen Elizabeth expressed in a warrant to the Kings-at-Arms, which is dated 3d December 1559. This coat is now properly used by her descendants; but there is no record of the Arms borne by her sister Eleanor, and there is no evidence of the use of the Royal Arms by her descendants before the garter-plate above mentioned. It must, however, be remembered that the claim of the Brandon coheirs to the co-representation of King Henry VII. did not accrue until after the death of Queen Elizabeth, the last surviving child of King Henry VIII. (102)

DESCENT OF THE FAMILY OF CHESTER MASTER FROM KING HENRY VII.

ARMS. (See shield at p. 99.)





III. FREDERICK CAVENDISH MASTER was born on 20th Oct. 1789, and died young at Windsor Castle in 1793.

IV. RICHARD THOMAS CHESTER was born at St. Omer's in French Flanders on 24th March 1795, and was a Captain in the Grenadier Guards. He married Anna Catherina Frederica, daughter of Baron Kammerl von Puckpock of Wasserburg in Bavaria, and died without issue.

V. ST. VINCENT FREDERICK MASTER was born on 6th Feb. 1800, and died unmarried at Gravelines in France in 1829.

WILLIAM CHESTER MASTER, the eldest son of Major Richard Master by Isabella Frances Egerton, was born on 4th Jan. 1785, and succeeded on the death of his uncle Thomas Master in 1823 to Knole Park and the rest of the Chester estates, which had been entailed on the male line of the Masters by Mrs. Bromley Chester's Will. He was Lieut.-Colonel in the Scots Fusilier Guards, and was one of the Gentlemen Ushers of the Privy Chamber to four successive sovereigns; for he was appointed in the reign of George III., and continued to hold the same office until his death in 1868. He married in August 1814, Isabella Margaret, daughter of Colonel the Hon. Stephen Digby,* Vice-Chamberlain to Queen Charlotte, and Master of St. Katharine's Hospital, by his second wife the Hon. Charlotte Mar-

* The Hon. Stephen Digby was fifth son of the Hon. Edward Digby, M.P. for Warwickshire, son and heir-apparent of William, fifth Lord Digby.

garet Gunning, daughter of Sir Robert Gunning, Bart., K.B., and Maid of Honour to Queen Charlotte. She was born on 15th May 1794, and died on 9th Jan. 1859, at the age of 65, leaving eight children.

Colonel Chester Master succeeded, on the death of his cousin Lady Carteret, in 1863, to The Abbey, Cirencester, and the rest of the family estates. He died on 20th Nov. 1868, aged 84.

Colonel Chester Master had issue by Isabella Margaret Digby his wife seven sons and three daughters, viz.

I. THOMAS WILLIAM CHESTER MASTER, son and heir, the present owner of Knole Park and of The Abbey, Cirencester.

II. GEORGE FRANCIS MASTER was born on 25th Dec. 1816, and matriculated on 15th June 1835, (25) at University College, Oxford, where he graduated M.A. in 1843. He is in holy orders; and was presented by his father's cousin, Miss Jane Master, to the Vicarage of Baunton in 1843, and to the Rectory of Stratton in 1844. He married, on 12th November 1845, Fanny, youngest daughter of Sir William Bolland, Kt., one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and has issue six children, viz.

1. FRANCIS CHARLES MASTER was born on 25th Aug. 1846.
2. HARRY CHESTER MASTER was born on 26th April 1848.
3. CONSTANCE MARY MASTER was born on 13th Nov. 1849.
4. ALGERNON WILLIAM CHESTER MASTER was born on 27th Sept. 1851.
5. ELIZABETH.
6. DORA.

III. HENRY ORLANDO CHESTER MASTER was born on 7th Sept. 1818, and was formerly Captain in the 95th Foot. He married, on 10th Nov. 1843, Eliza Harriet, daughter of Captain Higgs of the Royal Navy, by whom he had issue an only daughter, MARY ISABELLA, who was born on 6th July 1844.

Captain Henry Chester Master died at Malvern on 7th Aug. 1879.

IV. CHARLES CHESTER MASTER was born on 22d April 1820, and was Lieutenant in the 58th Foot. He died unmarried at Sydney in New South Wales on 8th Dec. 1847.

V. WILLIAM CHARLES CHESTER MASTER, C.B., and formerly Lieutenant-Colonel in the 5th Fusiliers, was born on 6th Nov. 1821, and married at Nice, on 23d Feb. 1861, Madelina Harriet Louisa, daughter of Sir William Curtis, 3d Bart, and has issue five children, viz.

1. RICHARD ST. GEORGE CHESTER MASTER was born 30th April 1866.
2. JOHN BROMLEY CHESTER MASTER was born 22d July 1867.
3. ARIANA GEORGINA. 4. HELEN ALEXANDRA.
5. MADELINE ISABELLA.

VI. AUGUSTUS CHESTER MASTER was born on 3d Dec. 1823, and matriculated at University College, Oxford, on 1st Dec. 1842, (25) where he proceeded B.A. in

1847. He entered holy orders, and was presented by his father's cousin, Miss Jane Master, in 1861, to the Vicarage of Preston All Saints in Gloucestershire. He married, on 29th July 1858, Henrietta, youngest daughter of Sir George Cornwall, Bart., of Moccas Court, Herefordshire, the sister of his eldest brother's wife, and has issue three children, viz.

1. GODFREY CORNEWALL CHESTER MASTER was born 22d Dec. 1859.

2. MARION FRANCES. 3. DIGBY CHESTER MASTER was born 3d Feb. 1867.

VII. FRANCIS ROBERT CHESTER MASTER, sometime Lieutenant in the 58th Foot, was born on 18th May 1826, and married, on 21st Jan. 1852, Emma Jane, daughter of Henry MacArthur, Esq., of New South Wales.

VIII. ISABELLA MARY FRANCES CHARLOTTE MASTER was born on 21st Nov. 1828, and married, on 15th May 1851, her cousin, George William Gunning, Esq., son and heir apparent of the Rev. Sir Henry John Gunning, Bart., of Horton, Northamptonshire, by whom she has issue, four sons and two daughters.

IX. EMMA FANNY MASTER was born on 26th June 1832, and died in childhood on 20th Feb. 1834.

X. EMILY ARIANA MASTER was born on 18th April 1837, and married, on 10th Feb. 1859, William Edmund Curtis, Esq., Lieutenant in the 1st Royal Dragoons, son and heir apparent of Sir William Curtis, 3d Bart., who died on 11th May 1860, aged 26, leaving an only son, who succeeded his grandfather in 1870, and is the present Sir William Michael Curtis, Bart. Mrs. Curtis married secondly, on 25th June 1868, George Berney Charleton, Esq., of Elberton, Gloucestershire, by whom she has two children.

III.

THOMAS WILLIAM CHESTER MASTER, the son and heir of Colonel Chester Master, was born on 28th May 1815, and matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, on 17th Oct. 1833, and proceeded B.A. in May 1837. He was elected M.P. for Cirencester in August of the same year, and sat in two successive Parliaments; but he accepted the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds in July 1844. He succeeded his father in 1868, and is the present owner of The Abbey, Cirencester, and of Knole Park. He married at Moccas, Herefordshire, on 7th April 1840, Catharine Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Sir George Cornwall, Bart., of Moccas Court, by whom he has had issue six children, viz.

I. THOMAS WILLIAM CHESTER MASTER JUNIOR, son and heir-apparent, was born on 15th May 1841, and like his father was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he matriculated on 31st May 1860. He was elected M.P. for Cirencester in 1878, and was reëlected without opposition in 1880 in the new Parliament. He married, on 11th Oct. 1866, Georgina Emily, 5th daughter of John Etherington Welch Rolls, Esq., of The Hendre, Monmouthshire, and has issue seven children, viz.

1. JESSY CATHARINE. 2. RUTH GEORGINA.
3. RICHARD CHESTER MASTER, son and heir-apparent, was born 28th Aug. 1870.
4. ISABEL MARY. 5. FLORENCE.
6. CYRIL CHESTER MASTER was born 8th Sept. 1874.
7. CHARLES ANDREW CHESTER MASTER was born 30th Nov. 1876.

II. ALICE MARY JANE MASTER was born on 7th March 1843, and married on 16th Feb. 1871, William Aitchison, Esq., of Drummorie, Edinburgh, formerly Lieut.-Colonel Scots Fusilier Guards, by whom she has three children.

III. ISABEL CATHARINE MASTER was born on 15th Jan. 1845, and married on 2d Dec. 1869, Major Cornwallis Henry Chichester of the 5th Lancers, by whom she has four daughters.

IV. EGERTON PHILIP CHESTER MASTER was born on 20th Nov. 1846.

V. CHARLES GILBERT CHESTER MASTER was born at Moccas Court on 1st June 1851, and died there in May 1865.

VI. ARTHUR CORNEWALL CHESTER MASTER was born on 25th July 1854.



1. Master of the Abbey.
2. Cann. Extinct Baronets.
3. Chester of Knole.
4. Astry of Henbury.
5. Egerton, Earls of Bridgewater.
6. Stanley, Earls of Derby.
7. Brandon, Dukes of Suffolk, with Clifford on a canton.
8. Royal Arms of England borne by Henry VII.

ARMORIAL SHIELD OF T. W. CHESTER MASTER, ESQ.,
THE HEIR OF THE CHESTERS OF KNOLE.

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- (2) Clutterbuck's Hist. of Hertfordshire, vol. iii. p. 363.
- (3) Pedigree of Chester in Visitation of Leicestershire 1619.
- (4) Royalist Composition Papers in Record Office, 1st series, vol. 1. pp. 103-23; Historical and Genealogical Register of New England, vol. xvi. p. 233.
- (5) Pedigree of Chester in Visitations of Hertfordshire 1572 and 1634.
- (6) Pedigree of Chester in Visitation of Essex 1634.
- (7) From the Records of the College of Arms, C. 21, 174.
- (8) Barrett's History of Bristol.
- (9) Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum, vol. vi. p. 385: *Barlynch*.
- (10) Particulars of Grants of dissolved Monasteries in 20 Henry VIII. in the Record Office.
- (11) Cotton. ms. in Brit. Museum: Cleopatra, E. V. 72.
- (12) Ms. Calendar of Bristol, quoted by Seyer in his Memoirs of Bristol, vol. ii. p. 231.
- (13) *Notitia Parliamentaria*, by Browne Willis.
- (14) Rudder's Hist. of Gloucestershire.
- (15) Pedigree of Chester in the Visitation of Gloucestershire 1623, C. 17, p. 59, in the College of Arms.
- (16) Inq. p.m. Willielmi Chester Civis et Aldermanni Bristollis 2 Eliz.
- (17) Pedigree of Roberts in Visitation of Gloucestershire 1569, D. xii. 156, in College of Arms.
- (18) Pedigree of Roberts in Visitation of Leicestershire 1619, and in Nichols' Hist. of Leicestershire, vol. iv. p. 547.
- (19) From the Binding-Book of the Merchants Taylors' Company, communicated by G. E. Cokayne, Esq., Lancaster Herald.
- (20) See A in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (21) See B in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (22) See C in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (23) Inq. p.m. James Chester of Bristol, 27 Sept. 3 Eliz.
- (24) Inq. p.m. Edward Chester of Bristol, 26 Sept. 2 James I.
- (25) From Colonel J. L. Chester's ms. Collections.
- (26) See D in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (27) Pedigree of Chester in Visitation of London 1634. Harleian mss. 1476, fo. 839.
- (28) Newcourt's Repertorium, vol. i. p. 436. See also Wood's Athenæ Oxon. 1721, vol. ii. p. 282.
- (29) From the ms. Collections of G. E. Cokayne, Esq., Lancaster Herald.
- (30) Jones' Index of Records, Originalia, and Memoranda, under Almondsbury and Barton.
- (31) See E in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (32) Calendars of State Papers, Colonial Series, vol. i. East Indies.
- (33) Seyer's Memoirs of Bristol, 4to, under the dates.
- (34) See F in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (35) Pedigree of Dennis in Fosbroke's Abstract of Smyth's Lives of the Berkeleys.
- (36) Inq. p.m. Willielmi Chester Arm. 5 James I., Part II. No. 144.
- (37) Calendar of Clarendon Papers in the Bodleian Library, under the date of 10 April 1643.
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- (39) M.I. at Almondsbury, printed in Rudder's Gloucestershire, p. 225.
- (40) See G in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (41) M.I. at Withington, Gloucestershire, printed by Rudder at p. 840.
- (42) Chamberlayne's Angliæ Notitia, 1687.
- (43) See H in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (44) Pedigree of Astry, communicated by Stephen Tucker, Esq., Rouge Croix, from Sir Isaac Heard's ms. in the College of Arms.
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- (46) Gentleman's Magazine, under the dates.

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Pedigree of Bromley, communicated by W. Bromley Davenport, Esq., M.P.
- (51) Pedigree of Astry in Visitation of Bedfordshire 1634.
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pp. 382-383.
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- (54) List of Sheriffs and Lord Mayors in Stowe's Survey of London.
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- (57) Will of Robert Revell (44 Milles in C.P.C.); and Seymour's Survey, vol. i. p. 435.
- (58) Will of Sir Thomas Hill, Kt. (17 Logge in C.P.C.).
- (59) Inq. p.m. Radulphi Astry, Militis, Kent, 11 Hen. VII. No. 90.
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- (65) Pedigree of Astry in the Visitation of London 1568, in the College of Arms.
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- (70) Inq. p.m. Willielmi Astry, Kent, 35 Hen. VIII. No. 80 (Chancery).
- (71) Inq. p.m. Willielmi Astry, 35 Hen. VIII. Kent (Court of Wards, vol. i. fol. 36, No. 93).
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- (74) See I in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (75) Pedigree of Rotherham in Visitation of Beds 1634.
- (76) Inq. p.m. Alicie Astry, Beds. Taken at Ampthill 1 Dec. 4 Eliz. (Court of Wards, vol.
viii. fol. 5).
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- (81) See M in Appendix of Extracts from Parish Registers.
- (82) Probatio ætatis Henrici Astry, Gen., 43 Eliz. No. 6.
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Parish Registers.
- (84a) Pedigree of Anderson in Clutterbuck's Hist. of Herts, vol. i. p. 285; Collins' Baronetage
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No. 758, fo. 84.
- (86) Pedigree of Dormer of Lee Grange in Baker's Northamptonshire, vol. i. p. 668.
- (87) Pedigree of Dormer in Le Neve's Knights, printed by Harleian Society 1870, p. 144.
- (88) 7th Report of Historical mss. Commission, p. 70.
- (89) Pedigree of Astry and Penyston in College of Arms, J. D. 14, fo. 259.
- (90) Wood's Athenæ Oxon. 1727, Fasti, vol. ii. p. 206.
- (91) Hardy's Catalogue of Chancellors and Officers in Chancery 1843, p. 94.
- (92) Pedigree of Hatton, Barts., in Kimber's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 372.
- (93) Calendar of Treasury Papers, under date of 12 Sept. 1712.
- (94) Le Neve's Fasti, Hardy's edition.
- (95) The Genealogist, edited by G. W. Marshall, vol. iii. p. 81.
- (96) Munk's Roll of the College of Physicians 1861, vol. i. p. 405; Wood's Athenæ Oxon. 1721,
vol. ii. Fasti, p. 216.
- (97) Rudder's History of Gloucestershire, p. 496.

- (98) Collins' Peerage 1779, vol. v. p. 270.
- (99) Collinson's Hist. of Somerset, vol. ii. p. 801: *Long Ashton*.
- (100) From her M.I. at Puddington, Beds.
- (101) Collins' Peerage 1779, vol. iii. p. 136.
- (102) I am indebted to Mr. Stephen Tucker, Somerset Herald, for my knowledge of the Garter-plate of the second Duke of Sutherland, and for assistance in marshalling the armorial shield at p. 99.
- (103) Communicated by F. A. Blaydes, Esq., of Tilsworth, Beds.
- (104) MARRIAGE LICENSES (from Colonel J. L. Chester's Collections): (25)

(From the Bishop of London's Registry.)

1620-1. Jan. 17, John Butterfield of St. Mary, Islington, Merchant Taylor, and ELIZABETH ASTRIE, spinster, daughter of Astrie, decd. To marry at Highgate, Middlesex.

1633. July 26, JAMES ASTRY, gent., of the City of London, bachelor, aged 25, and Diana Bee, spinster, aged 23, daughter of Edward Bee of Little St. Bartholomew's, London. To marry at St. Bride's or St. Faith's, London.
(They were married at St. Bride's, 28th July 1633.)

1707-8. March 22, CLOBERY BROMLEY, Esq., of St. James, Westminster, bachelor, aged about 22. To marry Mrs. Dorothy Bromley of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, spinster, aged 16, with the consent of her guardian, Charles Longueville, Esq., of the Inner Temple.
(They were married at St. Anne's, Westminster, 25th March 1708.)

(From the Faculty Office.)

1697-8. Jan. 12, WILLIAM BROMLEY, Esq., of Bagginton, Warwickshire, widower, aged about 33. To marry the Honourable Elizabeth Stawell of St. James, Westminster, spinster, aged about 22, at St. James, Westminster.
(Their marriage is not recorded in the Register of St. James's parish.)

APPENDIX I.

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS.

(A) *St. James's, Bristol* (examined by Henry Wasbrough, Esq., of Bristol, 1877).

- 1559. March 29, John and James, the sonnes of William Chester, bapt.
- 1564. May 17, Thomas Chester buried.
- 1567. Oct. 7, Agnis the wife of Thom. Chester buried.
- 1568. Sept. . . . Rowland Williams and Elizabeth Chester married.
- 1572-3. Jan. 3, Mr. William Chester buried.
- 1580-1. Feb. 14, Edward Chester buried.
- 1583. Sept. 24, Mr. Thomas Chester of St. John's parish buried.
- 1583. Oct. 26, John, the son of Mr. Wm. Chester, buried.
- 1584-5. Feb. 18, John, the sone of John Chester, bapt.
- 1593. July 12, Water, the sone of Water Chester, bapt.
- 1594. Nov. 19, Thomas, son of same, bapt. Buried 22 May 1602.
- 1595-6. Jan. 24, Jone, dau. of Water Chester, bapt.
- 1606. Sept. 18, Phillipe Langlie and Katrine Chester married.
- 1617-18. Feb. 23, Ellynor, the wife of William Chester, buried.
- 1641. Sept. 27, Mr. Walter Chester buried.
- 1645. Dec. 26, Mrs. Elizabeth Chester bur., aged 86.

(B) *St. Thomas's, Bristol* (examined by H. Wasbrough, Esq.).

- 1564-5. Feb. . . . Mrs. Mawd Chester buried.
- 1632-3. Feb. 10, John, son of Thomas Chester, bapt.

(C) *Christ Church, Bristol* (from Mr. F. Grigson's Collections).

- 1557. Dec. 25, John, son of Domyrick Chester, bapt. Buried 11 Feb. 1557-8.
- 1559-60. March 19, Domyrick, son of same, bapt.
- 1561-2. March 6, Alice, dau. of same, bapt.
- 1563. Aug. 24, Arthur Chester bapt.

St. Werbergh's, Bristol (from Mr. F. Grigson).

- 1564. May 26, Thomas Chester, son-in-law to George Higgins, buried.

(D) *St. Stephen's, Bristol* (from Mr. F. Grigson).

Marriages :

- 1560. Sept. 8, George Higgins & Marye Chester, widow of James Chester.
- 1569. Sept. 26, Thomas Chester & Katherine Smith, late wife of Robert Smith.
- 1586-7. Feb. 25, Thomas Holcombe & Bridget Chester.
- 1591. May 2, William Browne & Marie Chester.
- 1593. Dec. 16, Thomas Jewell & Elizabeth Chester.

Baptisms :

- 1567. Nov. 14, Marie, daughter of Mr. Chester.
- 1570-1. Mar. 9, Marie, daughter of Mr. Edward Chester.
- 1571. Oct. 12, Priscilla, daughter of Mr. Domyricke Chester.
- 1573. Sept. 12, James, son of Edward Chester.
- 1574-5. Feb. 21, Robert, son of same.
- 1576. Nov. 5, Elizabeth, dau. of same.
- 1577. Nov. 29, Bridget, dau. of same.

Burials :

1572. April 23, Mari Chester, wife of Mr. Domynicke Chester.
 1589. Oct. 6, Katerine Chester, widdow.

St. Nicholas, Bristol (from Mr. F. Grigson).

1584. April 23, Matthew Havelon & Joyce Chester married.
 1570. June 25, Edward Chester & Bridget Slocombe married.

(E) St. John's, Bristol (examined by Henry Wasbrough, Esq.).

- 1558-9. Feb. viii., Walter, sonne of John Chester, bapt.
 1581-2. Jan. 2, Alys, daughter of William Chester, bapt.
 1567-8. Feb. 14, Maisteris Chester buried.
 1569. Nov. 20, Damitie, servant to Mr. Chester, bur.
 1578-4. Jan. 4, Robert Pryns and Mary Chester married.
 1574. Nov. 24, Mr. John Caplyn and Anne Chester marr.
 1591-2. Feb. 20, William, son of Walter Chester, bapt.

(F) St. Thomas Apostle, London (from Colonel J. L. Chester's ms. Collections).

1620. Dec. 17, Walter, son of Walter and Jane Chester, bapt.
 1631-2. Feb. 1, Mary, dau. of Walter and Jane Chester, buried.

*St. Mary Aldermary, London (from Colonel J. L. Chester's ms. Collections).**Baptisms :*

1622. Dec. 28, Thomas, son of Walter Chester, clockemaker, bapt.
 1625. July 17, Mary, dau. of Walter Chester, clockemaker, bapt.
 1634. July 10, Charles, son of Walter Chester, clockemaker, bapt.
 1648. April 21, Thomas, son of Thomas Chester, draper, and Mary, bapt.
 1650. Nov. 19, Mary, dau. of same.
 1652. Nov. 16, Jane, dau. of same.
 1654-5. Jan. 27, Phillis, dau. of same, born the same day.
 1656-7. Jan. 21, Anne, dau. of same, born the same day.
 1658-9. Feb. 18, Walter, son of same, born 6 Feb.
 1660. April 2, Charles, son of same, born the same day.
 1662. May 23, Sarah, dau. of same, born 7 May.
 1665. May 18, Frances, dau. of same, born 7 May.

Marriage :

1647. April 22, Thomas Chester of this parish, draper, and Mary Dorbarr of St. Thomas Apostle, virgin.

Burials :

1588. May 15, Giles Chester, servant to Mr. John Warter.
 1636. Nov. 22, Walter, son of Walter Chester.
 1648. Oct. 12, Mr. Walter Chester, Merchant Taylor.
 1660. May 30, Mrs. Jane Chester, widow of Mr. Walter Chester.
 1663. Oct. 10, Sarah, dau. of Thomas Chester.
 1665. Oct. 7, Anne Chester, dau. of same.

(G) St. Vedast, Foster-lane, London. (25)

- 1654-5. Jan. 12, Mr. Thomas Chester, Esq., and Mrs. Elizabeth How, gentlewoman, were married by the now Lord Mayor, and afterwards by Mr. Pemberton our minister.

St. Andrew's, Holborn, London. (29)

1728. Nov. 1, St. John Chester, from Saffron Hill, buried.

Mercers' Chapel, London. (25)

1785-6. Feb. 28, Thomas Chester of Knowle, in the parish of Almondsbury, co. Gloucester, Esquire, and Mary Gwinnett of Shurdington, in the parish of Badgeworth, widow, were married by Mr. Anthony Chester, Chaplain to the Mercers' Company.

St. James's, Westminster. (29)

1741. Feb. 21, Elizabeth Lucy, dau. of Richard Chester, Esq., and Lucy his wife, baptized.

(H) Almondsbury, Gloucestershire (certified by Rev. Thos. Murray Browne, Vicar 1877).

1696. May 25, Thomas, ye son of Tho. Chester, Esq., bapt.
 1697. May 25, Anne, dau. of same, bapt. Buried 16 March 1697-8.
 1698. June 30, William, son of same, bapt.
 1700-1. Jan. 11, Richard, son of same, bapt.
 1701-2. Feb. 14, Charles, son of same, bapt.
 1702. July 1, St. John Astry, son of same, bapt.
 1703. Aug. 2, Anne, dau. of same, bapt. Buried 3 Aug. 1703.
 1700-1. Jan. 26, Mr. Edward Freeman, Attorney-at-law, and Mrs. Katharine Chester, married.
 1703. Aug. 6, Mrs. Anne Chester, wife of Tho. Chester, Esq., buried.
 1704. Feb. 27, Tho. Chester, Esq., buried.
 1716. Aug. 16, Sir Wm. Cann of the parish of Bussleton, Somersetshire, and Madam Elizabeth Chester, daughter of Tho. Chester, Esq., of this parish, dead., were married by Mr. Darby, Vicar of Henbury (*vide* the Register-book of Henbury parish).
 1742. Dec. 26, Thomas Master the younger of Cirencester, gentleman, and Elizabeth Chester Cann of this parish, married.

(I) St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, London. (25)

1618. Nov. 25, Thomas Seaborne of Bluntsham, Hunts, yeoman, and Mary Astry, mayden dau. of Thomas Astry of Somersham, Hunts, gent., married.
 1656. Oct. 9, Richard Astry, gent., and Elizabeth Stebbins, spinster, both of this parish, married.
 1678-9. Jan. 23, James Astry buried in the North Ile.
 1682. May 31, Mrs. Astry buried in North Ile.

St. Mary's, Huntingdon. (25)

1661-2. March 20, Mary, dau. of Richard Astry, gent., and his wife Mary, bapt. Born 6 March.
 1663-4. Feb. 26, Thomas Astry, son of same, bapt. Born 22 Feb.
 1666. April 11, Elizabeth Astry, dau. of same, bapt.
 1670-1. March 8, Mary, wife of Richard Astry, gent., buried. Died 6 March.
 1711. Nov. 14, Mary, wife of Mr. Richard Astry, buried.
 1714. Aug. 4, Mr. Richard Astry, alderman, buried.

*(K) Great Milton, Ozon. (25)**Baptisms :*

1618. Oct. 24, Anne, dau. of Ralph Astrey, gent.
 1614-15. Jan. 20, Millicent, dau. of same.
 1616. Oct. 20, Francis, son of same.
 1617-18. March 22, Ralph, son of same.
 1619. April 26, Michael, son of same.
 1621. April 8, Henry, son of same.
 1622. Oct. 9, Ralph, son of same.
 1623-4. March 13, William, son of same.

Baptisms :

- 1659-60. Feb. 20, Francis, son of Francis Astrey, gent., was born.
 1661. Nov. 13, Elizabeth, dau. of Francis Astrey of Little Milton.
 1666. Dec. 20, Anne, dau. of same.
 1690. Sept. 4, William, son of William Astrey, gent., of Little Milton.
 1692-3. Feb. 22, Francis, son of same.
 1699. April 11, Robert, son of same and Jane his wife.

Burials :

1613. Nov. 2, Anne, dau. of Ralfe Astrey, gent.
 1654. Dec. 6, Ralfe Astrey, gent.
 1694. Nov. 15, Mr. Francis Astrey of Little Milton, gent.
 1694. Dec. 1, Mr. Francis Astrey of Oxford (his son).

All Saints, Oxford. (25)

1684. June 29, Francis, son of Francis Astree, bapt.

Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. (25)

- 1707-8. Feb. 17, Mr. Thomas Smith, B.D. of the University, and Mrs. Elizabeth Astrey of the City of Oxford, widow, married.

St. Peter's-in-the-East, Oxford. (25)

1714. Oct. 17, Hester Austray buried.
 1717-18. Jan. 4, Henry Gimmett of Thame and Anne Astrey of Milton married by license.

(L) Toddington, Beds. (103)

1659. May 14, Mr. Francis Asterie buried. [He was buried at Harlington 19 May.]

Harlington, Beds (communicated by Dudley G. Cary-Elwes, Esq., of Bedford).

1658. Oct. 16, Mr. James, son of Francis Astrey, Esq., and Dorothy his wife, bapt. Born 14 Oct.
 1657. Aug. 27, Dormer, son of same, bapt.
 1659. May 19, Francis Astrey, Esq., buried.
 1659. Sept. 22, . . . Rawlins, Esq., and Mary Astrey married.
 1659. Dec. 20, Dormer Astrey buried.
 1664. May 5, Mrs. Dorothy Astrey, late wife of Francis Astrey, Esq., buried.
 1680. July 9, Peneston, son of James Astrey, Esq., and Anne his wife, bapt.
 1689. May 12, Mrs. Mary Astry buried.
 1709. Nov. 15, Sir James Astry, Kt., buried.
 1716. Oct. 19, James Astry, Esq., buried.

Houghton Conquest, Beds. (103)

1615. Nov. 8, Mr. William Astrey, gent., of Staple Inn, buried.

St. Andrew's, Holborn (from the ms. collections of G. E. Cokayne, Lancaster Herald).

1687. Nov. 6, Elizabeth, dau. of Sir James Astry, Master in Chancery, and Anne his wife, bapt.
 1692. Aug. 2, Sharlott, dau. of Sir James Astree and Dame Anne, bapt., Chancery-lane.

(M) *Eaton Socon, Beds* (certified by the Vicar, Rev. E. Horley, 1880).

1598. Oct. 15, Sanctus Johannes, filius Georgii Austrey, gen., bapt.
 1595. June 26, Maria, filia ejusdem, bapt.
 1596. July 18, Robertus, filius ejusdem, bapt.
 1598. Oct. 1, Maria, filia ejusdem, bapt.
 1605. Aug. 7, Judith, filia ejusdem, bapt.
 1606. Oct. 20, Grace, filia ejusdem, bapt.

Lincoln's Inn Chapel. (25)

1708. June 21, Luke Astry, Esq., who died at his chambers ye 16th of June.
 Dec. 17, Richard Orlebar of Hinwick, Beds, and Diana Astry of Henbury, Gloucestershire, married.

All Hallows Barking, London. (25)

1689. Nov. 21, William Bromley, Esq., of the County of Warwick, widower, and Trever Fortree, of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, virgin, married by license.

The Chapel Royal, Whitehall, London. (25)

1734. March 25, Francis Bromley and Rebecca Gastrell married.

Wickham, Hants. (25)

1738. July 30, William, son of Rev. Francis Bromley and Rebecca, bapt.
 1740. Dec. 7, Frances, dau. of same, bapt.

St. James's, Westminster. (25)

1756. May 8, William Bromley, Esq., and Bridget Davenport, both of this parish, married by license of the Bishop of London.

St. James's, Bristol (from Barrett's *History of Bristol*).

An altar-tomb, covering a vault, stood against the wall of the old Priory in the churchyard, with these inscriptions :

- 'James Chester, died 17th March 1560.
 William Chester, died 1st Jan. 1572.
 Edward Chester, died 1580.
 Walter, son of William Chester, died 21st Sept. 1641, aged 88.
 Thomas Chester, Sheriff of Gloucestershire 1577, was buried 24th Sept. 1583.'

The following memorandum of the destruction of this tomb in 1744 was discovered by Mr. H. S. Washbrough. It is pasted on the cover of an old book of churchwardens' accounts:

'June 15th, 1744. Upon a fryday morning, between three and fower of the clock, I, Thomas Harris, see Jacob Osborne, the freestone mason, take down the toubm cauld *Mr. Chesters ould toomb*, with the asistance of to or three of Mr. Job Gardiners men, and they put the top stone of the above ould monument upon Mr. Gardiners brewers dray and his horse. . . . I veryly beleved it to be haldit to Mr. Osbornes yard, and, as they tould me, broke the stone in halling it to the yard. Likewise the same persons, and at the same time also, tookt the other ould monument that stud erected in some part of the wall, I mene the top stone w . . . into a part of the wall which is, I think, now standing. They were all forbid to take any of those materials away out of the churchyard by the juner churchwarden, I think then Mr. Cristoper Lilly.

'THOS. HARRIS, Pariah Clerk of St. James.'

APPENDIX II.

CALENDARS OF WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.

WILLS OF CHESTER PROVED IN THE PREROGATIVE COURT OF CANTERBURY BEFORE 1760.

The initial letters affixed indicate to which family of Chester the Testator belonged :

A denotes the Chesters of Almondsbury.
B of Bristol.
C of Chicheley.
E of Leigh, in Essex.
H of Hertfordshire.

1471. Henricus Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	1 Wattys, B.
1476. Willielmus Chester . . .	London . . .	28 Wattys, C.
1484. Dña Agnes Chester . . .	London . . .	9 Logge, C.
1485. Alicia Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	14 Logge, B.
1487. John Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	28 Milles, B.
1505. Dame Alice Chester . . .	London . . .	85 Holgrave, C.
1513. John Chester . . .	London . . .	18 Fetiplace, C.
1534. Edith Chester . . .	Reding . . .	9 Hogan.
1559. William Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	52 Cheyney, B.
1560. James Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	89 Mellerch, B.
1564. Maude Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	80 Stevenson, B.
1566. William Chester . . .	Herts . . .	5 Crymes, H.
1569. John Chester . . .	Linc. . .	1 Sheffield.
1573. William Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	10 Peter, B.
1580. John Chester . . .	London . . .	37 Arundel.
1582. Thomas Chester . . .	Somerset . . .	86 Tyrrwhitt.
1584. Thomas Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	86 Butts, A.
1585. Dame Magdalen Chester . . .	Herts . . .	44 Brudenell, H.
1588. Giles Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	50 Rutland, B.
1590. Laurence Chester . . .	London . . .	71 Drury.
1591. Henry Chester . . .	Bristol . . .	88 St. Barbe, B.
1608. William Chester, Esq. . .	London . . .	57 Windebank, C.
1611. Ambrose Chester . . .	Kent . . .	77 Wood.
1614. John Chester . . .	Somerset . . .	10 Lawe.
1621. John Chester . . .	Somerset . . .	92 Dale.
1625. William Chester . . .	London . . .	47 Clark.
1628. Richard Chester . . .		82 Barrington.
1632. Richard Chester . . .	Essex . . .	43 Audley, E.
1635. Sir Anthony Chester, Bt. . .	Bucks . . .	128 Sadler, C.
1641. Sir Robert Chester, Kt. . .	Herts . . .	25 Evelyn, H.
Walter Chester. . .	Bristol . . .	12 Evelyn, B.
1642. Lady Anne Chester . . .	Herts . . .	33 Cambell, H.
1647. Dr. Granado Chester, D.D. . .	Herts . . .	12 Fines, H.
1648. Walter Chester . . .	London . . .	141 Essex, B.
Elizabeth Chester . . .	London . . .	191 Essex.
1649. George Chester . . .	Essex . . .	120 Fairfax, E.
Robert Chester, Esq. . .	Essex . . .	120 Fairfax, E.
1650. Abraham Chester . . .	Canterbury . . .	196 Pembroke.

1653.	William Chester	.	.	Dunstable	.	89 Brent.
	Samuel Chester	.	.	Sussex	.	146 Brent.
	Henry Chester	.	.	Bromley	.	218 Brent.
	Dorothy Chester	.	.	London	.	333 Brent.
1654.	Thomas Chester	.	.	London	.	475 Allehin.
1655.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Cambridge	.	139 Aylett.
	Agnes Chester	.	.	Kent	.	356 Aylett.
1656.	Elenor Chester	.	.	London	.	843 Berkeley.
1657.	John Chester	.	.	Northampton	.	65 Ruthen.
	John Chester	.	.	York	.	237 Ruthen.
1658.	William Chester	.	.	Gloucestershire	.	397 Pell, B.
	Edward Chester	.	.	Cambridge	.	363 Pell, H.
1661.	Richard Chester	.	.	York	.	2 May.
1665.	John Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	153 Hyde.
1666.	Sir Henry Chester, K.B.	.	.	Beds	.	158 Mico, C.
1670.	Thomas Chester	.	.	London	.	116 Penn, B.
1671.	Catherine Chester	.	.	Northampton	.	46 Duke, C.
	Sir Edward Chester	.	.	Herts	.	58 Duke, H.
1672.	Thomas Chester	.	.	(Mariner)	.	119 Eure.
1676.	Edward Chester, Esq.	.	.	Herts	.	110 Bence, H.
1678.	Robert Chester	.	.	(Mariner)	.	83 Reeve.
1679.	John Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	114 King.
1686.	Peyton Chester, Esq.	.	.	Bucks	.	127 Lloyd, C.
1687.	Thomas Chester, Esq.	.	.	Gloucestershire	.	37 Foot, A.
	Dame Mary Chester	.	.		.	169 Foot, C.
1692.	Dame Mary Chester, als. Lodington	.	.	Middlesex	.	164 Fane, C.
1695.	William Chester	.	.	Dunstable	.	171 Irby.
1696.	Benjamin Chester	.	.	Dunstable	.	7 Bond.
	Henry Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	63 Bond.
1698.	Henry Chester	.	.	Somerset	.	226 Lort.
1701.	Thomas Chester	.	.		.	Dec.
1703.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Parts	.	183 Degg.
1704.	Edward Chester	.	.		.	5 Ash.
	William Chester sen.	.	.	Parts	.	59 Ash, C.
	William Chester jun.	.	.	Parts	.	59 Ash, C.
	Mary Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	May.
1707.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Parts	.	57 Poley.
1708.	Edward Chester	.	.	Beds	.	
	Francis Chester	.	.	Parts	.	March.
1716.	Gamaliel Chester	.	.	Essex	.	May, H.
1718.	Edward Chester	.	.	Herts	.	May, H.
1721.	Mary Chester	.	.	Essex	.	March, H.
	Thomas Chester	.	.	Wilts	.	Sept.
1725.	Elizabeth Chester	.	.	Beds	.	May.
1727.	Anne Chester	.	.	Essex	.	Jan., H.
	John Chester	.	.	Kent	.	July.
	Henry Chester	.	.	Surrey	.	July, H.
1730.	Samuel Chester	.	.	London	.	Feb.
1731.	Robert Chester, Esq.	.	.	Herts	.	July, H.
	Anthony Chester	.	.	Gloucester	.	Nov.
1733.	Elizabeth Chester	.	.	Leicestershire	.	Jan., C.
	Robert Chester	.	.	Herts	.	Feb., H.
1734.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Somerset	.	June.
1736.	Jane Chester	.	.	Herts	.	July, H.
1738.	Mary Chester	.	.	London	.	Nov.
1739.	Robert Chester	.	.	Surrey	.	Aug., H.
1743.	John Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Feb.
1743.	Mary Chester	.	.	Essex	.	Aug.
1744.	Richard Chester	.	.	Surrey	.	Nov.
1745.	Edward Chester, Esq.	.	.	Parts	.	April, H.

1746.	William Chester	.	.	Parts	.	April.
1748.	Mary Chester	.	.	Essex	.	Oct.
1749.	Dame Frances Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Aug., C
	John Chester	.	.	London	.	Sept.
1751.	John Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Jan., C.
1752.	Dame Frances Chester	.	.	Derby	.	Jan., C.
	John Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	March, C.
	William Chester	.	.	Parts	.	Nov.
	Mary Chester	.	.	Surrey	.	Dec.
1754.	John Chester	.	.	Surrey	.	April.
1755.	Sir Charles Bagot Chester, Bart.	.	.		.	C.
1756.	Mary Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	April.
1757.	Peter Chester, Esq.	.	.	Middlesex	.	July, H.
	Samuel Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Sept.
1758.	Francis Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Jan., C.
	Sarah Chester	.	.	Herts	.	March.
1759.	Catharine Chester	.	.	Herts	.	May.
	Rev. John Chester	.	.	Somerset	.	June.
1760.	John Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Oct., C.
	Richard Chester, Esq.	.	.	Warwickshire	.	Sept., A.

ADMINISTRATIONS OF CHESTER IN THE PREROGATIVE OFFICE OF CANTERBURY
BEFORE 1760.

1583.	John Chester	.	.	London	.	8 Sept., C.
1574.	Sir Robert Chester, Kt.	.	.	Royston	.	25 Nov., H.
	Dominick Chester	.	.	Bristol	.	8 Sept., B.
1581.	Edward Chester	.	.	Bristol	.	25 Feb., B.
1594.	James Chester	.	.	London	.	2 Oct.
1595.	Sir William Chester, Kt.	.	.	London	.	18 May, C.
1600.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Bristol	.	11 July, B.
1602.	Richard Chester	.	.	Kent	.	23 Feb.
1603.	Sir William Chester, Kt.	.	.	London	.	27 Oct., C.
1604.	John Chester	.	.	London	.	16 Jan., C.
	Dominic Chester	.	.	Bristol	.	23 Oct., B.
1609.	John Chester	.	.	Essex	.	23 March.
1614.	Charles Chester	.	.	London	.	11 July.
1632.	William Chester	.	.	Herts	.	20 Oct.
1638.	Jane Chester	.	.	London	.	9 Nov.
	Judith Chester, als. Thornton	.	.	London	.	9 June, C.
1647.	John Chester	.	.	Parts	.	21 July.
1655.	Mary Chester	.	.	London	.	29 June.
1657.	Robert Chester	.	.	Chippenham	.	7 March.
1658.	Thomas Chester	.	.	co. Glouc.	.	10 Sept., A.
	Thomas Chester	.	.	London	.	30 Jan.
1659.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	8 Feb.
	Thomas Chester	.	.	co. Glouc.	.	17 Feb., A.
1660.	Jane Chester	.	.	London	.	27 July, B.
	Henry Chester	.	.	co. Somerset	.	14 Sept.
1669.	John Chester	.	.	co. Northampton	.	23 Aug., C.
1676.	Thomas Chester	.	.	London	.	11 Oct., B.
1677.	Thomas Chester	.	.	London	.	9 July, B.
1678.	Anthony Chester	.	.	Cheltenham	.	26 Jan.
1682.	Thomas Chester	.	.	London	.	6 Nov., B.
1683.	Theodore Chester	.	.	Argiers	.	16 Jan., H.
1691.	George Chester	.	.	Kent	.	8 Oct.
1693.	Anne Chester	.	.	London	.	23 Feb., H.
1696.	Samuel Chester	.	.	(Mariner)	.	23 March.

1699.	Dorothy Chester	.	.	Cornwall	.	12 July, C.
1701.	Heseltine Chester	.	.	Essex	.	Nov., H.
1705.	Mary Chester, als. Farrer	.	.	Herts	.	May, H.
1714.	Jane Chester	.	.	Beds	.	May.
1717.	Jane Chester	.	.	London	.	Aug.
1719.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Wilts	.	Nov.
1721.	Robert Chester	.	.	Herts	.	Dec., H.
1725.	Elizabeth Chester	.	.	Dunstable	.	May.
1726.	Granado Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	June, H.
1727.	Lady Elizabeth Cann, als. Chester	.	.			June, A.
1728.	William Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Aug.
	Dr. Peter Chester	.	.	Essex	.	Aug., H.
	Susanna Chester, als. Smith	.	.	Kent	.	June.
1729.	St. John Astry Chester	.	.	Oxford	.	Nov., A.
	Robert Chester	.	.	Herts	.	H.
	Edward Chester	.	.	Herts	.	April, H.
	Mary Chester	.	.	Essex	.	Feb., H.
1734.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	April.
1737.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Sept., C.
1740.	Anne Lee, als. Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	Jan., C.
1742.	Theodora Chester	.	.	Essex	.	Feb., H.
1743.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	April.
1746.	John Chester	.	.	Sussex	.	July.
1748.	Mary Chester	.	.	Essex	.	June, H.
	Mary Carbery, als. Chester	.	.	Ireland	.	Dec.
	Sir John Chester, Bart.	.	.	Bucks	.	C.
1749.	Theodosia Chester	.	.	Essex	.	May, H.
1752.	Anthony Chester	.	.	Parts	.	Nov., C.
	William Chester	.	.	Parts	.	Nov.
1753.	Theodosia Chester	.	.	Essex	.	May, H.
	Thomas Chester	.	.	Surrey	.	May.
	Henry Chester	.	.	Surrey	.	May.
1754.	John Chester	.	.	Surrey	.	April.
1755.	Thomas Chester	.	.	Parts	.	Jan.
1757.	Granado Chester	.	.	London	.	Jan., H.
	John Chester	.	.	Parts	.	May.
1758.	Nathaniel Chester	.	.	Gloucester	.	April.
1759.	Edmond Chester	.	.	Middlesex	.	March.
	Thomas Chester	.	.	Parts	.	April.

The Wills and Administrations marked A and B are all printed in this volume.

WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS OF ASTRY IN C.P.C. BEFORE 1708.

1494. Sir Ralph Astry, Kt., of London. (19 Vox.)
 1501. Ralph Astry of London. (3 Blamyr.)
 1502. William Astry of London. (14 Blamyr.)
 1518. Thomas Astry of Hitchin, Herts. (10 Ayloffs.)
 1523. Lady Margaret Astry of London. (25 Bodfeld.)
 1584. Ralph Astry of Harlington, Beds. (9 Brudenell.)
 1586. Edward Astry of Stoke Goldington, Bucks. (63 Windsor.)
 1598. Ralph Astry of Harlington, Beds. (5 Kidd.)
 1615. William Astry of London and Bucks. (96 Rudd.)
 1630. Sir Henry Astry of Harlington, Beds. (58 Scroope.)
 1631. John Astry of Shelton, Beds. (7 St. John.)
 1633. Thomas Astry of Toseland, Hunts, Admon.
 1633. John Astry of London. (36 Russell.)
 1654. Ralph Astry of Little Milton, Oxon. (425 Alchin.)
 1655. Martha Astry of Toseland, Hunts. (50 Berkeley.)
 1658. William Astry of Husborne Crawley, Beds. (36 Wootton.)
 1659. Francis Astry of Harlington, Beds. (350 Pell.)
 1660. St. John Astry of Holywell, Hunts. (159 Nabb.)
 1664. Dorothy Astry of Harlington, Beds. (46 Bruce.)
 1679. James Astry of London. (1 King.)
 1682. Diana Astry of London. (87 Cottle.)
 1702. Robert Astry of London. (19 Degg.)
 1704. Sir Samuel Astry, Kt., of Henbury, co. Glouc. (175 Ash.)
 1707. Luke Astry of Lincoln's-inn. (125 Barrett.)
 1766. Francis Astry, D.D., of Harlington, Beds. (395 Tyndall.)

Full abstracts of all these Wills and Administrations are printed in this volume, with the exception of the two which are printed below :

WILLIAM ASTREY OF HUSBORNE CRAWLEY, BEDS, YEOMAN. Will dated 7th Nov. 1657.

To be buried in Husborne Churchyard.

My wife Martha to sell the house and close where Henry Syers als. Sadler dwells, and which were bought of Thomas Smith, doctor, late of Husborne Crawley, deceased.

To my eldest son Robert Astrey the house wherein I now dwell after the death of my wife, on condition that he pays to my daughters Mary and Martha, and to my son William, £10 each. My wife to be my executrix, and my brother Thomas Peerce of Little Linford, Bucks, and Edmond Green of Husborne Crawley to be overseers of my Will.

Witnesses : Thomas Green, Thomas Peerce, Thomas Sam.

Will proved in C.P.C. on 21st Jan. 1658-9. [36 Wootton.]

ROBERT ASTREY OF THE PARISH S. MARTIN'S IN-THE-FIELDS, GENT. Will dated 17th March 1698.

To the three children of Mr. William Astrey of Little Milton, Oxon, £100; and to Hugh, John, and Thomas Eustace, sons of Hugh Eustace of Little Milton the like sum of £100, to be paid into the hands of their respective fathers.

To the four children of Mr. Francis Astrey, late of Oxford, mercer, deceased, £100.

To the three children of Thomas Surban, late of Oxford, mercer, £100, to be paid to their said father.

To John Ketchlowe, who was body coachman to the late Queen Mary, £40.

To Guy Stone of S. Martin's-in-Fields, sword-cutler, £40.

To Samuel Gilman, son of Samuel Gilman of Windsor, Berks, apothecary, £40, on condition that Samuel the father comes to my buryal.

To Edmund Ball, son of Laurence Ball, who was sargeant of the bakehouse to the late King Charles II., £20.

To Richard Woodnoth, gentleman server to his grace the present Archbishop of Canterbury, £10.

To 'Captain Ffield, Master Cooke' to the said Archbishop, £10.

To Mr. Paul Collins, in whose (sic) I lodge, £18.

To Samuel Jeremy, son of Mr. Jeremy, embroider at the Twisted Posts in Long Acre, £20.

To William Perks, living near Hungerford Market in the Strand, £10.

All my books and £15 to John Hammond, under-housekeeper of his Majesty's house at Kensington.

The said John Ketchlowe and Guy Stone to be my executors and residuary legatees.

To Lieutenant William Rose all the moneys due to me by a bond from him.

Witnesses : William Sharpe, Edward Violet, Anthony Blount, Benjamin Wilcock.

Will proved 8th February 1702-3 in P.C.C. by John Ketchlowe and Guy Stone. [Degg 19.]

WILL OF SIR MAURICE DENNYS, KT., the grand-uncle of William Chester's wife, and the former owner of the Hundred and Manor of Barton Regis. (See p. 30.)

SIR MAURICE DENNYS OF LONDON, KT. Will dated 20th Oct. 1562.

To my wife Elizabeth, all my plate, jewels, and household stuff; also all my manors in Kent, with my manor of Barton Regis in Gloucestershire, and the Hundred of King's Barton in the same county; and also my manor of Olveston in Gloucestershire; to the intent that she shall, 'within . . . years after my death, bargain and sell the same to the most benefit and profit,' in order to provide for the payments of my debts.

Whereas I have, by deed dated 1st Feb., in the second year of Queen Elizabeth, mortgaged to Rowland Haward, Alderman of London, and to Francis Bower, Citizen and Grocer, my manor of Siston in Gloucestershire, for the sum of £2200, I direct that the mortgage debt be paid off out of the proceeds of the manors hereinbefore ordered to be sold; and I devise the said manor of Siston, together with my manor of Pucklechurch in Gloucestershire, to my wife Dame Elizabeth for life, and after her death to my nephew, Richard Dennys, Esq., in tail male, with remainder to my brother, Sir Walter Dennys, Kt., and to his heirs for ever.

To my nephew, Francis Dennys of the Temple, an annuity of £16 a year out of the rents of my estate at Pucklechurch.

To my wife Dame Elizabeth and her heirs, my mansion, garden, and premises that I now occupy in St. Jones-lane for her life, and my other messuages and tenements in St. Jones-street and in St. Jones-lane, in the county of Middlesex.

To Audrey Dennys, towards her marriage, 200 marks, to be paid to her by my said wife within three years after my death.

To my sister, Mary Dennys, an annuity of £10 a year for her life.

My said wife to be my sole executrix.

Witnesses : Richard Dennys; John Bowhtoff, Sergeant-at-Law; Francis Dennys; Thomas Walker.

Will proved in C.P.C. 9th Feb. 1562-3.

APPENDIX III.

INQUISITIONES POST MORTEM.

- 1559 (2 Eliz.). 29 Dec., WILLIAM CHESTER, Alderman of Bristol, died 4 Sept. 1558, seised of lands in Rodford, in the parish of Westerley, in the county of Gloucester. James Chester, his son and heir, was aged 30 and upwards. (*See p. 9.*)
- 1560 (3 Eliz.). 27 Sept., taken at Cirencester. JAMES CHESTER, merchant of Bristol, died 15 April 1560, seised of lands in Rodford. Edward Chester, his son and heir, was aged 16 and upwards. (*See p. 14.*)
- 1604 (2 James I.). 26 Sept., taken at Bristol. EDWARD CHESTER, merchant of Bristol, died 12 Feb. 1581-2, seised of lands in Rodford, &c. James Chester, his son and heir, was aged 31 years and 14 days at the date of the inquest. (*See p. 16.*)
- 1607 (5 James I.). 16 Dec., taken at Chipping Sodbury, co. Gloucester. WILLIAM CHESTER, Esq., died 13 Oct. 1607, seised of the manors of Almondsbury and Barton Regis, of the Hundred and Liberty of Barton Regis, and of lands in Kingswood and Oulston. Thomas Chester, his son and heir, was aged 20 years 1 month and 23 days at the date of his father's death; and Catherine, widow of the deceased, is alive and well (valet) at Almondsbury. (*See p. 84.*)
1495. Oct. 12, SIR RALPH ASTRY, Kt., Alderman of London, Kent (10 Hen. VII. No. 90 Chancery); Kent and Middlesex (10-11 Hen. VII. No. 7 Exchequer). William Astry, his son and heir, was aged 23 and upwards at the date of the inquest. (*See p. 54.*)
1524. Nov. 3, SIR RALPH ASTRY, Kt., after the death of Dame Margery Astry, his widow, Kent (16 Hen. VIII. No. 165 Chancery). William Astry, son and heir of Thomas, brother and heir of William and Ralph, sons of Sir Ralph, was 21 years old and upwards at the date of the inquest. (*See p. 59.*)
1548. May 2, WILLIAM ASTRY, of Stoke Golding, Bucks, Gent., Kent. (35 Hen. VIII. No. 80 Chancery, and Court of Wards, vol. i. p. 36). He died 2 June 1542, when his son and heir, Thomas Astry, was 14 years old and upwards. (*See p. 66.*)
1561. Dec. 1, ALICE ASTRY, wife of Ralph Astry, Esq., Beds (Court of Wards, vol. viii. fo. 5). She died on 2 March 1560-1, and her son and heir, George Rotherham, was 20 years old on the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle last past. (*See p. 71.*)
1598. Dec. 7, RALPH ASTRY, Esq., Beds (41 Eliz. Part I. No. 31 Chancery). He died on 7 Aug. 1598, when his son and heir, Henry Astry, was 21 years and 5 months old. (*See p. 75.*)
1601. Proof of his majority by HENRY ASTRY, GENT., Beds (Probationes etatis, 42 Eliz. No. 6). He was born in his grandfather's house at Harlington Woodend on 24 Feb. 1576-7. (*See p. 76.*)
1630. Oct. 4, SIR HENRY ASTRY, Kt., Beds (6 Car. I. No. 167, and Court of Wards, 1630, Bundle 48). He died on 25 April 1630, when his son and heir, William Astry, was 15 years old. (*See p. 77.*)
1632. Nov. 20, WILLIAM ASTRY, Esq., Beds (Coles' Escheats, Harleian ms. 758, fo. 141). He died on 24 Sept. 1632, and his brother and heir, Francis Astry, was 13 years 11 months and 24 days old at the date of the inquest. (*See p. 79.*)

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Bernard of Iselham.
Billing of Astwell.
Blaydwin of Boston.
Blount, Earls of Newport.
Blythman of Leeds.
Boteler Lords Boteler of Brantfield.
Boteler of Watton Woodhall.
Bowes of Jenkins.
Bressey of Battersea.
Brown of Horbling.
Brown of Saltfleetby and Pinchbeck.
Brown of Walcot and Horbling.
Bryce of Jenkins.
Bullock of Maplestead.
Burrell of Dowsby.
Bury of Oxfordshire.

Calthorpe of Burnham.
Calthorpe of Norfolk.
Cambell of Barking, Barts.
Cape of London.
Cartwright of Ossington.
Catelyn of Northamptonshire.
Cave of Chicheley.
Cave of Ingarsby.
Cave of Stanford-on-Avon.
Chapman of London, Barts.
Chester of Barbadoes.
Chester of Bucks.
Chester of Chicheley.
Chester of East Haddon.
Chester of Leigh.
Chester of London.
Chester of Stow St. Edward.
Chester of Tilsworth.
Clare, Earls of Hertford and Gloucester.
Clare, Earls of Pembroke.
Clobury of Winchester.
Coggeshall of Essex.
Coleville Lords Coleville of Bytham.
Coningsby of Hampton.
Cony of North Stoke.
Cradock, Lords Howden.
Cranford of Newington.
Cranmer als. Wood.

Cranmer of Aslacton.
Cranmer of Astwood and Loudham.
Cranmer of Canterbury and Rotterdam.

Cranmer of Chevening.
Cranmer of Kirkstall.
Cranmer of London.
Cranmer of Mitcham and Quendon.
Crawley Boevey, Barts.
Croke of Chilton, Bucks.

D'Amory, Lords.
Darcy Lords Darcy.
Doreward of Essex.
Dormer of Quainton.
Drayton of Strixton.
Drury of Hawsted.
Duncombe of Broughton.
Dunsmore, Leigh Lords.

Ellis of Kiddall.
Eynyon, Barts.

Felbrigge of Felbrigge.
Ferrers Lords Ferrers of Wemme.
Fisher of Islington, Barts.
Fisher of Wisbech.
Fitz-Hugh, Lords.
Fletcher of Rothbury.
Floud als. Lloyd of Chevening.
Foderinghay.
Foster of Dowsby.
Freere of the Blankets.

Gardiner of Cuddesdon.
Gaunt, John of, Descendants of.
Gernon of Bakewell.
Gernon of Essex.
Gernon of Ireland.
Gifford of Astwell.
Gobaud of Rippingale.
Gobion of Hertfordshire.
Gobion of Northampton.
Greystock, Lords.

Hampden of Great Hampden.
Haselden of Gilden Morden.
Hawkwood of Hedingham Sible.
Hawtrej of Ruislip.
Herris of Chevening.
Heton of Wisbech.
Hewett of London.
Hewett of Stretton and Great Glen.
Hewett of Wales and Parsloes.
Hill of Hampton.
Hill of Walthamstow.
Holland, Earls of Kent.
Holt of Aston, Barts.
Horton of Catton.

Howard, Duke of Norfolk.
Howard, Lords, of Escrick.
Hughes of Northampton.

Irby of Whaplode.
Isham of Braunston.
Isham of Pytchley.

Jenkinson of Walcot, Barts.
Jesson of Loughborough.
Joan of Arc, Descendants of.

Kenrick of Kent.
Kenrick of Rotterdam.
Kesteven, Trollope Lords.
King of Maplestead.

Langley of Knowlton.
Leigh, Earls of Chichester.
Lewyn of London.
Lloyd of Chevening.
Lovett of Astwell.
Lylling of Abington.

Mainwaring of Goltho.
Mallory of Welton.
Methold of London and Norfolk.
Millicent of Bergham.
Molineux of Teversall, Barts.
Montacute, Earls of Salisbury.
Montacute Lords Montacute of Bungay.
Montfichet, Barons.
Monthermer, Lords.

Nance of Trengoff.
Nethercotes of Nettleham.
Neville, Earls of Salisbury and Westmoreland.
Newport, Earls of.
Noel of Kirkby, Barts.
Norfolk, Dukes of.
Northumberland, Earls of.
Norton of Sharpenhoe.
Nott of Thames Ditton.

Offley of London.
Oneby of Barwell and Loudham.
Osborne, Dukes of Leeds.
Osborne of Parsloes and Northill.

Peyton of Doddington, Barts.
Peyton of Iselham, Barts.
Peyton of Knowlton, Barts.
Peyton of Peyton Hall.
Pitt, Earl of Chatham.
Plantagenet.
Plumtree of Nottingham.
Pointz of North Ockendon.

Pope of London.
 Porter of Gloucestershire.
 Porter of Lincolnshire.
 Portland, Weston, Earls of.
 Poulton of Desborough.
 Quincey of Aslackby.
 Rands of Nettleham.
 Remington of Lund.
 Roche of Wixley and Lamer.
 Roper of Heanor.
 Royal Descents.
 Ryley of London.
 Ryley of Norfolk.
 Sackville of Essex.
 St. George of Hatley St. George.
 St. George of Kilrush.
 Saxby of Northampton.
 Scales, de, Lords.
 Serope of Barking.
 Seward of Bengworth.
 Shan of Methley.
 Skrimshire of Aqualate.
 Smyth of Elkington.

Smyth of Linford.
 Smyth of Thames Ditton.
 Sneyd of Keele.
 Southampton, Earls of.
 Stapylton of Ingham.
 Strange of Blackmere, Lords.
 Talbot, Lords.
 Taylor of Newark.
 Throckmorton of Coughton.
 Tindal of Essex.
 Toller of Billingborough.
 Toller of Stamford.
 Tomlins of Bow.
 Tomlins of Bromley.
 Trollope, Barts.
 Trott of Colney Hatch.
 Tyndale of Hayling Island.
 Tyndall of Deen.
 Tyndall of Hockwold.
 Tyndall of Maplestead.
 Ufford, Earls of Suffolk.
 Ufford of Langley, Lords.
 Ufford of Wrentham.
 Vaux of Harrowden, Lords.

Vere, Earls of Oxford.
 Vere of Addington.
 Villiers of Brooksby, Barts.
 Villiers, Viscounts Grandison.
 Waller of Beaconsfield.
 Waller of Coleshill.
 Waters of Glamorganshire.
 Webb als. Wood of Great Bealings.
 Webb of Kensington.
 Weston, Earls of Portland.
 Weston of Lichfield.
 Weston of Roxwell.
 Wigfall of Renishaw.
 Wollaston of London and Waltham.
 Wollaston of Perton and London.
 Wollaston of Perton and Trescot Grange.
 Wollaston of Shenton and Finborough.
 Wood als. Cranmer of Loudham.
 Wood of Hackney.
 Wriothesley, Earls of Southampton.
 Yorke of Ashby.

Amongst the Distinguished Persons, whose Biography or Genealogy is narrated, illustrated, or corrected, are the following:

Robert Amadas, Master of the Mint, 1526.
 Richard Coote, Earl of Bellamont, Gov. of New York, 1696.
 Sir Robert Bell, Lord Chief Baron, 1577.
 Sir Hugh Bryce, Lord Mayor, 1485.
 Sir Thomas Billing, Lord Chief Justice, 1469-81.
 William Bromley, Speaker, 1710.
 John Bury, translator of Isocrates, 1571.
 Mountjoy Blount, Earl of Newport, 1628-66.
 Alice Boleyn, Lady Clere, 1507.
 Joseph Caryll, Presbyterian Divine, 1652.
 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury.
 John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough.
 Andrew Card, Solicitor-General of Queen Catherine.
 Sir John Clobury of Winchester, 1687.
 Sir William Chapman, Bart., South Sea Director, 1721.
 Sir John Chapman, Lord Mayor, 1688.
 George Cranmer, Hooker's favourite pupil, 1599.
 Sir Cæsar Cranmer, Equerry of Queen Mary II., 1640-1707.
 Sir William Cranmer, Governor of the Merchant Adventurers, 1691.
 Sir Henry Chester, K.B., 1660.
 Sir William Chester, Lord Mayor, 1560.
 John Cokayne, Lord Chief Baron, 1399-1429.
 Sir Humphrey Coningsby, Judge, 1510-35.
 Thomas Chester, Bishop of Elphin, 1580-4.
 Sir Ambrose Cave, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, 1558.

William Coningsby, Judge, 1540.
 Sir George Croke, Judge, 1624-42.
 Dr. Cradock, Archbishop of Dublin, 1772-78.
 William Dillingham, Master of Emmanuel College, 1660.
 Thomas, Lord Darcy, beheaded 1538.
 Stephen Egerton, Puritan preacher, 1622.
 Charles Eyre, Equerry of Prince George of Denmark, 1706.
 Sir John Fitz-James, Lord Chief Justice, 1526-39.
 Charles Fitzroy, Duke of Southampton and Cleveland, 1674-1730.
 Sir Simon Felbrigg, K.G., Standard-bearer of England, 1442.
 Robert Gernon, Domesday Baron, 1087.
 Stephen Goffe, the Oratorian, 1666.
 Sir Thomas Gardiner, Solicitor-General of Charles I., 1643.
 Sir John Gernon, Chief Justice of Ireland, 1338.
 Sir John Hawkwood, the Condottiere, 1360-94.
 John Hampden, the Patriot, 1595-1643.
 Sir William Hewett, Lord Mayor, 1559.
 Edward, Lord Howard of Escrick, 1628-75.
 Sir Justinian Lowyn, Master in Chancery, 1660.
 Edward Lowe, the Musician, 1632-82.
 Sir Richard Lane, Lord Keeper of Charles I.
 Francis Leigh, Earl of Chichester, 1644-53.
 Sir William Methold, Chief Justice of Ireland, 1617.

Edward, Lord Montacute, 1342-61.
 Nicholas Morton, the Pope's Penitentiary, 1569.
 Sir John Milbourne, Lord Mayor 1521, and Founder of
 the Drapers' Almshouses.
 Captain John Mason, Founder of the State of New
 Hampshire, 1635.
 Sir Thomas Nevill, Secretary of State to Henry VIII.
 John Nanfan, Governor of New York, 1701.
 Dr. Nalson, the Historian, 1680.
 Thomas Norton, M.P., author of *Gorboduc*, 1532-1584.
 John Newdegate of Harefield, 1592.
 John de Offord, Archbishop Elect of Canterbury, 1349.
 Major Oneby, the Duellist, 1727.
 Sir Edward Osborne, Lord Mayor, 1583.
 Thomas Pointz of Antwerp, the friend of Tyndale the
 Reformer, 1536.
 Sir John Peyton, Lieutenant of the Tower 1597 and
 Governor of Jersey 1604-30.
 Sir Edward Peyton, Puritan pamphleteer, 1652.
 Endymion Porter, Poet and Courtier, 1649.
 William Pitt, Earl of Chatham.
 Thomas, 8th Earl of Pembroke, Viceroy of Ireland, 1683.
 Henry Parry, Bishop of Worcester, 1610-16.
 Sir Edward Ryngley, Marshal of Calais, 1532-41.
 William Ryley, the Herald, 1641.
 William Ryley, Keeper of the Records, 1675.
 Sir Philip Ryley, Sergeant-at-Arms, 1728.
 Henry Rands, Bishop of Lincoln, 1547-51.
 Sir William Roche, Lord Mayor, 1540.
 Richard Rogers, Suffragan-Bishop of Dover, 1568-97.
 Samuel Roper, the Antiquary, 1634.
 Dr. John Spencer, President of Corpus and Editor of
 Hooker, 1614.
 Sir Edward Saunders, Lord Chief Justice, 1557.
 Lawrence Saunders, the Martyr, 1554.
 John Strype, the Historian.
 'Silver-tongued' Henry Smith, the Preacher, 1582.

Elizabeth Shirley, one of the Founders of St. Monica
 at Louvain, 1609.
 Robert de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, K.G., 1337-69.
 William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, K.G., 1369-82.
 Henry Stubbs, Physician and Author, 1660.
 Frances Stuart, Countess of Portland, 1632-94.
 Sir Lawrence Tanfield, Lord Chief Baron, 1607-24.
 John Toller, Serjeant-at-Law, 1736.
 Nathaniel Tomkins, 'of Waller's Plot,' 1643.
 Sir Benjamin Thoroughgood, Sheriff of London, 1685.
 Sir John Tyndall, Master in Chancery, 1598-1616.
 Dr. Humphrey Tyndall, Dean of Ely, 1591-1614.
 Matthew Tindal, the Freethinker.
 Nicholas Tindal, translator of *Rapin*.
 Ralph de Ufford, Viceroy of Ireland, 1346.
 Sir George Villiers, Bart., of Brooksby.
 George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, K.G.
 John Winthrop, Governor of Massachusetts, 1629.
 Sir John Wollaston, Lord Mayor, 1644.
 William Wollaston, author of *Religion of Nature*, 1720.
 Lieut.-General Sir John Waters, K.C.B., Adjutant-
 General at Waterloo, 1774-1842.
 Richard Weston, Judge, 1559-72.
 Richard Weston, Earl of Portland and Lord High Treas-
 urer, 1628.
 Jerome Weston, Earl of Portland, K.G., 1634-63.
 Charles Weston, Earl of Portland, 1663-5.
 Thomas Wood, Bishop of Lichfield, 1671-92.
 Edmund Waller, the Poet, 1605-1687.
 Sir Henry Wood, Bart., Treasurer of Queen Henrietta
 Maria, 1597-1671.
 Nathaniel Wyche, President of India, 1659.
 Isaac Walton, author of the *Complete Angler*, 1626-
 1683.
 Christopher Wandesford, Lord Deputy of Ireland, 1640.
 John Williams, author of *Balaam's Ass*, 1619.
 Mary Wood, Duchess of Southampton, 1664-1680.
 General Edmund Waters, C.B., 1783-1866.

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OF THE

Extinct Family

OF

CHESTER OF CHICHELEY,

THEIR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS.

ATTEMPTED BY
ROBERT EDMOND CHESTER WATERS, Esq., B.A.
BARRISTER OF THE INNER TEMPLE,
ETC., ETC.

THE ACADEMY,
June 21, 1879.

It would be impossible within the compass of a single article to deal fairly with these volumes—impossible to give any adequate idea of the immense field of research over which their author has travelled; or of the extraordinary minuteness of his investigations; or of the patience, sagacity, and indomitable energy he has displayed; or of the many curious and suggestive results he has arrived at. As for the Chesters themselves, the reader will care but little for them; they serve as the text to a sermon which has at times almost as little to do with them as many other sermons have to do with *their* texts. Even Mr. Waters, with all his ingenuity, cannot make much of the bearers of a name which he delighteth to honour. But as we are led on to follow the fortunes of all the collateral branches and wander into the mazes which the author helps us to thread, we are tempted to believe—and can hardly resist the temptation—that a family which furnishes an excuse for gathering together all this fascinating assemblage of recondite lore must have been a race of giants. Genealogists are to history what microscopists are to physical science. For the most part they are only genealogists, and when they are so they are a dreary lot. A pedigree in its nakedness is a gaunt and forbidding skeleton, and if the construction of one of those terrible schemes yecept a 'family tree' be all that a Dryasdust aims at elaborating, he is doing no more than setting up a withered *hortus siccus* for credulous simpletons to stare at. It is rarely safe to do more.

Mr. Waters is a very different person from the ordinary pedigree-maker; in his view a man is something very much more than a name. He counts it his duty to spare no pains in attempting to find out what each unit in the long series he is concerned with was made of; what he contributed to the stock upon which he was grafted; what he derived from those from whom he was sprung. But he is impatient of fiction, and a very severe critic of other

men's work. The fables of heralds and antiquaries, falsely so called, he cannot away with; the blunders of pretenders he remorselessly exposes. In the undeniable facts of history he finds and lays before us all that is most startling and pathetic in romance. It may seem incredible to most readers that in a book which contains extracts from some two hundred parish registers and abstracts of nearly four hundred wills there should be a fund of anecdote and a wealth of illustration which makes it difficult to leave off reading when one begins to turn over the pages.

Perhaps one of the charms of the book consists in its fearless censure of all bad work and bad workmen. We all have a prurient liking to see our fellow-creatures 'shown up,' and the operation is performed in these volumes in a very trenchant manner. 'The birth and character of Chief Justice Billing . . . have been assailed by Lord Campbell with reckless animosity;' then woe to Lord Campbell, for he comes under Mr. Waters' lash, and by the time he has done with his victim he is as effectually demolished, extinguished, and exposed as his best friends—who are said to find pleasure in that kind of process—could desire.

Mr. Shirley, 'a genealogical writer of considerable pretensions,' unluckily bungles in his account of the Lovetts of Astwell, a family that somehow or other gets dragged into this Chester vortex. Mr. Waters comes to the rescue, and, merciless foe to inaccuracy, he tilts at Mr. Shirley, and leaves him rolling in the dust. Burke, in his *History of the Commons*, adopts an apocryphal pedigree of the Ellis's of Kiddall: forthwith this knight-errant of genealogy is upon him, and the 'untrustworthy character' of the document in question is not only exposed, but its falsity is conclusively demonstrated. With Mr. Waters there are some crimes that may be venial, but no errors are to be forgiven: a genealogist who is tolerant of inaccuracy appears to him a monster.

And yet, as I have said, the book is full to overflowing of the most curious stories, sometimes very tragic, sometimes grotesque in the extreme. What an affecting sketch is that of Thomas Poyntz, the Reformer! Poyntz, it ap-

pears, lived at Antwerp, where he was making money, and showing hospitality; but his leanings were all to one side—the Gospellers were his delight. His wife was one with him, and it seems that she kept an alms-box in a conspicuous part of the house, possibly for visitors to drop their contributions into for the relief of the persecuted and oppressed in less favoured lands. Tyndale, the translator of the New Testament, was a bosom friend of Poyntz, who entertained him for long in his house; and when poor Tyndale crossed the Channel, and was caught and flung into prison, it seems that Poyntz, growing anxious, took ship, and bravely went to the help of his friend, if haply he might save him from his fate. Of course Poyntz failed, as we all know, but we did not know how narrowly he himself escaped the fate which Tyndale met with on the scaffold.

Again, what a curious picture of the difficulties that young lovers in the sixteenth century had to contend with do we get in the story of the poet Waller's wooing and marriage! The Court of Aldermen and the Lord-Mayor were against him, for his wife, Anne Bankes, was 'an orphan of the City,' and an heiress, and it hurt the dignity of the City magnates that 'Mr. Waller hath diverse tymes attempted to visit her, much ymportuning to know by what order she should be kept from sight of him.' It was all in vain; the lovers were too much for the City folks, and were married comfortably enough in the end.

But more curious still, what a notion we gain of the amazing condition of our prisons in Queen Elizabeth's time when we find that Wisbeach Castle, which was the great place of detention for Roman Catholic priests, had actually become at the end of her reign 'a seminary for corrupt youths,' where the sons of the Catholic malcontent gentry received their education at the hands of the incarcerated 'Mass Priests'!

That violent contrasts in conduct and opinions are to be met with in that picturesque period when England was divided into the two camps of passionate antagonists—the one the representatives of Geneva, the other of Rome—is known to all who have carefully studied our annals. But there are few more striking instances than is afforded by the case of Laurence Saunders, who was burnt at Coventry as a Protestant under Queen Mary; while his brother—a zealous partisan of that Queen, appointed by her Chief Justice of England, and knighted by King Philip—was removed from his office by Queen Elizabeth for his attachment to the Roman faith and ritual.

How few there are nowadays who even know the name of Henry Smith!—'the Chrysostom of England,' as he was called: the man whose sermons Fuller published and, as we should now call it, 'edited' more than sixty years after his death. He died at thirty-one, and, for all that appears, unmarried; but, young though he was, he preached a telling sermon once on the *duty of mothers suckling their own children*, and he preached so well that 'many persons of honour and worship, ladies and great gentlewomen, forthwith recalled their children home in order to suckle them themselves.'

Quaint stories like this swarm in these volumes, and give a life and interest to the book, and make it stand alone as a unique example of what a man of genius and scholarly training can do with a subject hitherto believed to be essentially vapid and barren. It is the merit of Mr. Waters' volumes that they never let us feel that we are dealing with mere names: his people are alive, or at any rate we are carried back to the times when they were living. The author has that rare gift of historical imagination which enables him to sympathise with the past, and so to present us with vivid sketches of a state of things which has gone for ever. Perhaps it can be said of no book in the language, extending over eight hundred quarto pages, and reviewing more or less carefully the lives of some thousands of people, some of whom played a very inconsiderable part in their day—a book, too, which does not even profess to be more than Genealogical Memoirs of an extinct family of English gentry of the second rank—that it is not only a readable book, but an eminently entertaining one, and that it deserves to take rank as a valuable contribution to the domestic history of England. We have nothing like it on our side of the Channel, and it may be doubted whether even the old French genealogists ever produced a work at once so careful and so exhaustive.

As I said at starting, it would be impossible to give any one a due idea of the wealth of materials worked up in these volumes. The account of the Cranmer family is in itself a monograph of great value; the chapters on the Tyndales of Hockwold and Maplestead, with the episode of the succession to the crown of Bohemia, would make a representative volume. When one reads all that Mr. Waters has got together about William Ryley—father and son—Keepers of the Records, and preëminent for antiquarian and heraldic lore, one wonders whether in some mysterious way the same gifts which distinguished those indefatigable scholars may not have been transmitted to Mr. Waters himself by a freak of *heredity*. He himself has pointed out in a very striking passage the strong family likeness in the characters of John, Duke of Marlborough, and William Pitt, Earl of Chatham; but it is not a little startling to be told that that similarity is to be traced in their common likeness to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and that the two former statesmen had Villiers blood in their veins. Surprises like this give a new charm to historical research. If we will but keep our eyes open there is no lack of discoveries which still remain for the student of history who is not afraid of independent inquiry.

AUGUSTUS JESSOPP.

ORMEROD'S HISTORY OF CHESHIRE,

Edited by T. HELSBY, 1880, vol. ii. p. 728.

Note to the pedigree of Boteler:

Memoirs of the Chesters of Chicheley, by R. E. Chester Waters.—A very accurate, able, and interesting work, dealing with a vast variety of facts in a small compass.

Two chapters of these Memoirs were separately printed in July 1877 for the use of those who are specially interested in the families of CRANMER and WOOD. They are a fair specimen of the whole book ; and although the number of copies was too small to be widely circulated, they were noticed in some of the leading Reviews, as below :

THE SATURDAY REVIEW,

August 25, 1877.

We have heard of a genealogist so enthusiastic that he lamented the hard fate of our forefather Adam, who could not possibly have entertained himself with that study. . . .

If genealogy is to be studied at all, it certainly cannot be studied more thoroughly than it is done by Mr. Waters. Here we have two chapters printed in advance, as part of a larger work which is to come. Cranmer and Wood come in merely as parts of a much larger scheme, 'a large unfinished work which comprises the history of a multitude of families, and is entitled *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley, their Ancestors and Descendants*.' Now of course we had heard of Cranmer, and, after a little thought, we found that we had heard of Wood; but, frightful as it may sound in genealogical ears, we must confess that we had never heard of Chester of Chicheley. That is to say, we could not call up any distinct remembrance of having heard or read of anybody of that name. Yet the chances are that before long, in a reading of something new, or in a reading again of something old, we shall find the name of Chester of Chicheley staring us in the face. In reading the account of any transaction, there are sure to be a mass of names which are passed by at the time as conveying no particular meaning. We then light upon something which gives the name a meaning, and the next time we come across it it seems like the name of an old friend. As yet, all we know of Chester of Chicheley is that he has somehow something to do with Archbishop Cranmer and with Bishop Wood. When we next meet his name it will doubtless strike us, and we shall find out whether he—by 'he' of course we mean the personified *gens*—did anything to make himself remembered on his own account. As it is, we only mark the way in which local names travel about and get settled at places far away from those from which they were first taken. Here is Chester living at Chicheley, a fact which brings more clearly home to us, what we might have thought for ourselves, that there must be a place Chicheley somewhere. But Archbishop Chicheley, who bears the name of that place, was by all accounts born at Higham Ferrers.

Mr. Waters earnestly pleads for a distinction between genealogy and pedigree-making, and we fully admit the distinction ; that is to say, Mr. Waters does not put down a single stago in any descent unless he has proved, often with a good deal of trouble, that it has a real right to be there. Sir Bernard Burke, on the other hand, puts down anything that he is told, true or false, possible or impossible ; that is to say, there is the same difference between Mr. Waters and Sir Bernard Durko that there is between any two other men in any other pursuit, one of whom is careful about facts, while the other is not. But the pursuit,

or professed pursuit, is the same in both cases. Both Mr. Waters and Sir Bernard Burke draw up pedigrees. The distinction between genealogy and pedigree-making is not a difference of subject, but a difference in the way of treating the subject. It is like any other form of the great distinction between accuracy and inaccuracy. We can quite understand that a genealogist must be anxious not to be mistaken for a pedigree-maker ; that Mr. Waters must be anxious not to be mistaken for Sir Bernard Burke. But this does not touch the question as to the value of genealogy as a study. If two men sit down to chronicle grandmothers, there is a wide difference between the man who chronicles the right grandmothers and the one who chronicles the wrong ones. But this leaves quite untouched the question whether it is worth any man's while to trouble himself to chronicle grandmothers at all.

When we turn over Mr. Waters' pages we are inclined to say on the whole that it is ; that is, the man who chronicles grandmothers in an intelligent way has his place in the economy of things. We may wonder at the taste which leads any man to spend a great deal of time in tracing out the births, deaths, and marriages of a crowd of people who in themselves do not matter at all. But we are inclined to say that his time is not wasted, because, in searching out the history of the people who do not matter, he ever and anon alights on things which illustrate the history of people who do matter. Most of the people whose names Mr. Waters has brought together are in themselves absolutely unimportant ; but several of them are far otherwise, and the investigation of both classes is a single process ; the important facts cannot be got at without wading through the unimportant facts. We come to the end of Mr. Waters' book with the distinct feeling that we know more of the history of the sixteenth and of the seventeenth centuries than we knew before we read it. His time then, we hold, has not been thrown away.

The persons who are treated of in this volume gather around two chief persons of widely different fame—Thomas Cranmer and Thomas Wood. . . .

Mr. Waters of course does not go through the whole life of Archbishop Cranmer ; but he brings out a great many things illustrating his life and character, as well as those of the persons immediately connected with him. . . . Edmund the Archdeacon, brother of the Archbishop and father-in-law of Norton, was put into the archdeaconry by his brother in a way for which there seemed to have been precedents, but which was surely scandalous in itself. Archbishop Warham had given the place to a nephew, who was not in holy orders. He was made to resign on receiving a pension from the new incumbent. The descendants of Edmund go on at some length, and in one case Mr. Waters has certainly shown marvellous skill in putting this and that together to make out the descent. Of higher

historic interest are Cranmer's archiepiscopal seals. Up to 1538 they contain, like those of his predecessors, the representation of the martyrdom of the earlier Thomas. After that year this is exchanged for scriptural subjects.

In the second part of the volume, which is devoted to the family of Wood, a good deal comes out which illustrates the court and reign of Charles II. Thus there was a certain Sir Henry Wood, whose daughter was married to Charles, Earl (and afterwards Duke) of Southampton, one of the sons of Charles II. by the Duchess of Cleveland. Both were quite children, and, though the marriage had been negotiated before Sir Henry Wood died, it was in the end actually carried out by something like kidnapping on the part of Duchess Barbara. This brings us to the chief personage in the second part, Thomas Wood, first Dean of Lichfield, and afterwards Bishop of that see, who was the guardian of his niece Mary, but did not venture to do anything, because 'a vacant bishopric was dangling before his eyes, and he had no idea of sacrificing his prospects for the protection of his niece.' The doings of this Bishop Wood are given at length. . . .

In one point Mr. Waters corrects a slip of Lord Macaulay, which he seems to take great pleasure in doing. When we once come to the reckoning of grandmothers, everybody is found to be of kin to everybody, and we gradually come to a certain Elizabeth Webb, who was wife of Sir John Chapman, Lord Mayor of London—no other than the Lord Mayor who was so frightened when Jeffries was brought before him. Macaulay says that the Mayor was 'a simple man, who passed his whole life in obscurity, and was bewildered by finding himself an important actor in a mighty revolution.' That he was bewildered there is no doubt; but he certainly had not passed his whole life in obscurity. Mr. Waters comments:

'His narrative is characteristic of Macaulay; for by omitting to mention the name of the Lord Mayor, whom he is branding with contempt, he keeps out of sight the fact that, so far from being a simple

man unversed in public affairs, he had just been elected by his fellow-citizens expressly on account of his political experience and his courageous resistance in the preceding year to all the pressure of the Court and threats of the King's displeasure. He was one of the six Aldermen of London who were displaced in 1687 for opposing the address in favour of the declaration of indulgence.'

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Mr. Waters' book is a monument of patient ingenuity. We understand it forms part of a larger one, which is entitled *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley, their Ancestors and Descendants*. Genealogy is so often confused with pedigree-making, that people are apt to forget that it is a necessary element in history and biography, to which it is a help or a hindrance, according as the laws of historical evidence are observed or violated. The author only prints an extremely limited impression of his work, on which we have merely to say that it is a model of what the genealogical history should be even of Archbishop Cranmer of Aslacton. The primary arms of the Cranmer (or Cranmere) family appear to have been a chevron between three cranes, being a canting allusion to the lake or mere abounding with cranes, from which the family name was taken. Copies of the original seals of Cranmer are given, which show that in 1530, when the Six Articles, in their full vigour, were the law of the land, the Archbishop changed the three cranes of his paternal coat of arms for as many pelicans 'in their piety,' to signify his readiness to shed his blood for the Gospel. This change in his armorial bearings was made by command of Henry VIII.; and the pelicans are conspicuous on the frontispiece of the Great English Bible, which was published in April 1540. The whole memoir is of an interesting character to students of English history.

